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Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235 (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2013

SPRING INTO EASTER

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street Starts Page 16

What a weekend for Welsh rugby!
(See The GEM's Back Page Comment)

Time to take a closer look at lovely...
LLANTWIT MAJOR Starts Page 23



When will Barry Island get that vital new road?

— DEMANDS VALE MP

ALUN CAIRNS, the Vale's MP, has called on the Vale Council to support plans that would complete a new road to Barry Island by January 2015.

Mr Cairns emphasised that the link will be a vital element in the development of not just

the Quays area, but Barry Island too.

He told The GEM that he recently met the Waterfront Consortium's project manager, and said he understands that the first phase of the road will be completed by January 2015.

However, Mr Cairns said he was disappointed that the first phase only provides access to new

housing and Asda, and won't run across to the island.

Mr Cairns claimed the current plans mean that phase 2 — linking the road to the Island — may not be completed for another five to seven years.

He explained: "Having heard from local residents on the Island, I know how concerned they are that the new access road is built."

"Last week, I met the project manager for the Waterfront Consortium and was pleased to hear that despite issues with asbestos and technical delays, the first phase of the road to the planned housing will be complete by 2015."

"However, I think it's wholly unacceptable that the council insisted that Phase 2 of their development of the new road be put on hold and the social housing element development be prioritised in its place."

Mr Cairns went on: "There is a very clear need for social housing in Barry, but from my correspondence, I believe local residents would have preferred to have seen the road come first."

"The developers advise me that they have offered to complete Phase 2 of the road immediately."

Mr Cairns said there was an opportunity for the Vale Council to swap priority in favour of the road.

"I would welcome the views of local residents so that I can make further representation on their behalf to the council leader during my meeting in mid-April."

"Alternatively, I am advised that the Welsh Government may assist with a funding scheme."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

REPORT
by **TIM CHAPMAN**

'Distressed' widow robbed by burglars

A BARRY widow has been left "extremely distressed" after burglars raided her home and made off with prized possessions, including a video of her husband's last days.

Also among a large number of items stolen were her diamond engagement ring and wedding ring; a red and black coloured Samsung laptop computer, a BOSE Wireless iPod docking station, an iPad, a 4th generation iPod, and a Silver coloured camcorder.

In addition, a quantity of medicines was stolen: 28 Tablets of Tramadol, 28 tablets of Diazepam and two bottles of Oromorph (morphine).

Police said that access was gained to

the house overnight on Friday, March 8. Detective Constable David Rich of Barry CID reported: "The victim of this crime has recently been widowed and a number of the stolen items are very sentimental to her."

"This has been an extremely distressing incident for the victim, and the theft of her engagement and wedding rings, as well as the camcorder which contained a video diary of the victim's late husband's last few days, are of particular concern to her."

Police are appealing to anyone with information to contact Det Constable Rich at Barry CID on 01446 731606, or 101; alternatively, via Crimestoppers (free and anonymous) on 0800 555111 — quote reference 62130071813.

A DAY OF FUN FOR COMIC RELIEF!



ABOVE:
Comic Relief was the beneficiary when All Saints Primary School pulled out all the stops with a day of fundraising — with the accent on the fun! (See Page 27 for more photographs of the day)

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Cost of police commissioner

MANY of your readers may be unaware just how much our new Police Complaints Commissioner Alun Michael has built up his team.

You would have thought that he would have been seeking to save money but his new staff list is totally unacceptable.

On top of his job, with a salary of up to £100k, he has an assistant, a deputy and a chief of staff, plus a further ten members of staff. All this at what cost?

I was recently approached by police officers in my town, complaining about the effects of cuts to the force and how they were struggling. Surely, instead of creating an empire, it would be much better to put

resources onto the front-line?

For the first time in my life, I refused to vote because I did not think it was right to politicise our police force.

This latest news certainly does not give me confidence in the new post.

The creation of all these jobs for the boys and girls, is so wrong – when people are suffering hardship.

We got very little information during the elections, which was another reason I didn't vote, but I cannot recall a mention of all these jobs to go with it.

Finally, I wonder how many of these jobs will be given to his Labour Party friends... money that would be better spent putting bobbies on the beat!

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry, Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

'Underwhelmed' by board's plans

AS someone who is vocal about the potential for Barry to be regenerated by heritage tourism, I couldn't help but be underwhelmed by the plans released by the Barry Regeneration Board.

Another cafe, a fountain and a bench will hardly encourage visitors to venture to Barry Island on a cold wet day.

Still, we'll see how long the fountain lasts before it goes the same way as other fountains that have been built in Barry.

One thing I do, however, welcome is the cre-

ation of an 'events space'.

As one of the organisers of last year's popular 'Wartime Weekend' community event, and the organiser of this year's event on August 31-September 1, I am well aware of the need for such a location.

With the right infrastructure, there is no reason why Barry could not have an event every weekend throughout the season.

I very much hope that the Regeneration Board engage with events organisers in Barry, rather than waste further much-needed regeneration money on expensive consultants.

Ade Pitman, Wartime weekend organiser, Barry.

DOG FOULING: 'Bag it and Bin it'

THERE is (rightly) much public concern about dog fouling. As a dog owner myself, I often venture to Cosmeston Park, Penarth, for a relaxing walk, and note many owners dispose of their dogs' mess in the correct way.

However, I am now seeing bags being left hanging on branches or left on the ground.

Surely it would make sense if the council sited bins along all nature trails with paths, for dog mess to be disposed of in a more environmentally-friendly way?

D Gratton, Penarth.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: 'NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE'

IAM writing to inform you of my outrage about the handling of school admissions by the Vale Council.

I, like many parents, applied for my child's school place in January. I filled the form out

online and was told that by March 1, the decision would be emailed to us.

The day came and went and around 12pm, I received an email stating that because of the online admissions having a technical fault, we would be told a week later on March 8.

This would not have

been a problem, however, some church schools that one applies to directly had already sent out their acceptance on March 1 and had given parents until March 8 to reply.

If a parent turned down the church school, what if they then did not get the school they asked for?

I called the council to express my anguish and was told there was nothing they could do.

March 8 came and went, and still no word from the council.

The letter finally came on March 9, a Saturday, when the offices are closed. Although I had opted for

Potholes problem: 'nothing changes'

ON April 19 2012, The GEM carried a letter from Mr Sid Golding MBE of Sully, headed 'Fed up with the potholes'.

History has a way, of course, of repeating itself. Mr Golding said that, regarding Beach Road, Sully: "It would be nice if the Vale of Glamorgan Council repaired the whole road...what they've done in the last nine years is fill in three or four potholes every year."

Well, Mr Golding, surprise, surprise, the same policy still applies today...

Here in Aberystwyth Crescent, with the constant churning of our road surface during school term time – we have two schools adja-

an email, I received a letter in the post.

I was lucky and received the place I wanted for my son, but those who didn't had no where to turn.

In the letter, it asks you to assess the council's handling of the admissions process.

I would like to tell the council that the process is inefficient, not fit for purpose, and that they should not give dates they cannot keep.

A little bit of care and consideration goes a long way when deciding the future of other people's children. (Name and address supplied).

cent in a crescent 200 metres long – it is a cul-de-sac – so every parent dropping off/picking up has to execute a three point turn, twice a day. A few days ago, as a result of a complaint form I had posted to the council, and raised the issue again with one of our local councillors, Ian Johnson (Plaid Cymru) we had a visitation from 'yellow pen man', marking a few jobs to be done.

Then along came two workmen, plugging a few holes, including the prize-winning deepest – but ludicrously over-looking yellow marks elsewhere – still there as a reminder of incompetence – outside number 19.

"Plus ça change; plus c'est la même chose" – nothing changes! **Christopher Short Barry**

Cambrian Park: 'I lost everything'

IREFER to the recent GEM article by Tim Chapman, regarding the so-called 'transformation of Cambrian Park'.

I lived on Cambrian Park during the "upheaval" and was one of the families that was evicted, as I was told that my home did not comply with the new Vale of Glamorgan site licence imposed on the park in 2002. I lost everything.

After selling my home in Cardiff, to purchase

my home on Cambrian Park, and then to be told that I would have to leave there with nothing and be moved to social housing in Barry, was devastating.

I am now out of pocket by having to pay four times as much in rent as I was paying there. I owned my own home and now I have nothing.

To hear that £4.5 million has been spent, is particularly galling as no compensation was paid to any of the previous residents to re-locate.

(Name and address supplied).

'RSPCA IS NOT OPPOSED TO ALL JUMP RACING'

THE RSPCA would like to reassure your readers that, contrary to Chris Herring's letter ('Stand up for your sport', in The GEM, March 7), we do not want to "stop all jump racing".

The charity does, in fact, work closely with the British Horseracing Authority and Aintree, to try to ensure that any risks to horses are minimised and that improvements are made where possible.

Although we would still like to see a reduction in the field (to prevent risks associated with 'bunching up' at jumps) and extra alterations to Becher's Brook, we welcome the many changes to the Grand National announced by the BHA in September 2012 – including changing the cores of the fences to a more forgiving material.

The RSPCA also works hard to improve the welfare of all horses. Our officers investigated more than 4,900 equine-related complaints in 2012, taking in hundreds of unwanted and neg-

lected horses, ponies and donkeys. We work closely with horse welfare charities to promote responsible ownership, tackle unscrupulous dealers and to improve enforcement of the passport system.

We use any donations given generously to the RSPCA to prevent suffering to animals, whether those animals are wild, domestic or farm animals.

Therefore, the RSPCA is also concerned, contrary to Mr Herring's beliefs, about religious slaughter, and is opposed to the slaughter of any food animal without first rendering it insensible to pain and distress until death supervenes.

This position is based on evidence from scientific research on the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter.

The RSPCA continues to push for changes in the law to improve the welfare of farm animals at the time of slaughter, and for clearer food labelling, to show whether or not animals have been stunned. **Sophie Wilkinson, RSPCA Regional Media Manager.**

Win for commonsense

IRECENTLY wrote to the managing director of Cardiff Bus, as a result of the bus stop changes introduced on the Penarth, Sully and Barry routes out of Cardiff.

In essence, the relatively new popular stop at the rear of the Central Library (generally known as John Lewis), has been abandoned for traffic congestion reasons, and services now commence at The Philharmonic Hotel stop in lower St Mary Street.

However, and not before time, a stop has at long last been introduced serving the Central Bus

Station and Cardiff Central Rail Station at stop JQ outside the former Astey's building in Wood Street.

This is very much a win-win for commonsense, and, more to the point, for passengers with heavy luggage who need to travel on to Penarth or Barry.

You may also note the reference to further changes on these services from July – possibly an ominous statement?

My interests lie in public transport as a former member of the South-East Wales Transport Alliance, the local authority funded transportation consortia. **Coun Anthony Ernest, Penarth.**

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Ht	Time		Ht
	AM	M		PM	M	
21 Thur	00.22	7.2		13.22	7.0	
22 Fri	02.02	7.1		14.49	7.2	
23 Sat	03.23	7.6		15.57	7.8	
24 Sun	04.14	8.2		16.41	8.4	
25 Mon	04.58	8.8		17.20	8.9	
26 Tues	05.34	9.4		17.59	9.7	
27 Wed	06.16	9.8		18.35	9.9	
28 Thur	06.54	10.2		19.13	10.1	

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Plaid says – 'Bryneithin Residential Home should be older person's village'

PLAID CYMRU councillors have called for an urgent report on the future of the Bryneithin residential home site in Dinas Powys.

Last week, The GEM revealed that the home was to close, with one relative of a former resident insisting it should become a centre of excellence for care of the elderly or a respite facility.

Coun Chris Franks, Plaid Cymru group leader and a Dinas Powys councillor, said that if the Vale Council did produce a report, it should set out both short-term and longer-term proposals for the site.

He explained: "Dinas Powys residents are very concerned for the future of the Bryneithin site.

"Plaid Cymru has always argued that Bryneithin should be a centre of excellence and are committed to the site being used for older people's services and have expressed this view to the director of social services.

"That is why Plaid councillors have formally asked that a report be presented to councillors setting out the administration's intentions. We are keen to see much more than what might be seen as somewhat vague promises.

"We need a timetable, a budget, a commitment from the Health Board and comment from other interested organisations that might be involved."

Plaid councillor Dr Ian Johnson, who sits on the Vale's social care and health committee says that councillors should not be kept in the dark on major issues.

Dr Johnson said: "When the committee last discussed Bryneithin back in October we recommended that the site should be used for social services in future, after the current home closes.

"However, the Labour-led Vale cabinet threw out that recommendation."

Dr Johnson pointed out that the demise of

Bryneithin had been a possibility for a number of years. Four years ago, a protest campaign won a reprieve for residents at the time.

Dr Johnson said: "It was the previous Conservative administration who took the decision to close the home. However, following the delays in closure, I strongly feel that councillors should have been told, at least confidentially, of the decision and date of the site's final closure, rather than finding this out in the press.

"With all of the pressures upon social service provision it is difficult for councillors to scrutinise decisions about which we are not told.

"We urgently need a report to see the short-term effects of Bryneithin's closure upon the social services budget and to begin developing medium to longer-term plans for the site, which should be for social services, such as an older people's village."

Pupils see dance company in action



THIS week, the 'year 6 dance club' at Cadoxton Primary school had an opportunity to visit the National Dance Company of Wales at The Dance House Cardiff.

The programme was excellent, and demonstrated to the children the different styles of contemporary dance.

Mr Phil Williams, dance choreogra-

pher, explained each dance beforehand, and made the children feel very welcome. Afterwards they met the dancers and asked questions, collected autographs, and had their photograph taken.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the children, as they were performing at the Sherman Theatre yesterday, March 13, as part of the Cardiff and Vale Schools' Dance Festival. **RH**

First aiders' primary goal at Palmerston



ELEVEN parents recently completed three two-hour sessions of first aid training at Palmerston Primary School, with FAST trainer, Russell Fowler.

It is part of the Putting Families First programme and was supported by the Genesis 2 project in the Vale, which helps people regain their confidence and skills to return to work.

In the photograph (left to right) are: Janice Jackson (Palmerston Primary Family Support) Nicola Mills, Sharon Eveleigh, Wendy Draisey, Rachel Cross, Kayleigh Williams, Kiki James, Russell Fowler (F.A.S.T. Trainer) Carla Freaney, Trudie Risby, Angelina Patrick (The Genesis Project), Sadie Trowbridge and Debbie Maddocks. Missing from the picture is Gemma Carter.

Queen Street robbery: police seek passers by

BARRY police are trying to trace a passerby who went to the aid of a 17-year-old victim of a robbery in Queen Street, between 5pm-5.30pm on Wednesday, January 23.

Following the incident, the victim was approached by a man described as being in his 50s, who asked if he was okay, and advised him to contact the police. Officers need to trace the man as he could hold vital information about the incident, during which a gold chain was stolen from the victim.

Two suspects were being sought: one is described as Asian, of chubby

build, 6ft to 6ft 1ins in height, short to medium black hair, wearing black tracksuit bottoms and jacket.

The other man is described as being 5ft 6ins to 5ft 8ins in height, of thin to medium build, aged early 20s, wearing a white bobble hat with a black/dark blue hooded top.

A 17-year-old male has been arrested in connection with the incident and is currently on police bail pending further enquiries.

Anyone with information can contact police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously (0800 555 111).

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Chicken Tikka	£2.90
Lamb Tikka	£2.90
Duck Tikka	£3.95
Salmon Tikka	£4.00
Paneer Tikka	£2.75
Tandoori Chicken	£3.50
Mushroom Cocktail	£2.95
Sheek Kebab	£2.80
Mixed Tandoori	£3.30
Peri Peri Crab	£4.50
Garlic King Prawns	£4.30
Chingari Jinga	£4.30
Macchi Tikki	£2.80
Prawn Poori	£2.95
Palak Pakora (v)	£2.30
Chilli Paneer (v)	£2.80
Tiffin Platter	£6.00

Tandoor

Chicken Tikka	£5.80
Lamb Tikka	£5.80
Duck Tikka	£7.50
Salmon Tikka	£7.80
Paneer Tikka	£5.50
Tandoori Chicken	£5.80
Tandoori Chicken	£6.50
Tandoori Shashlick	£7.00
(Chicken or Lamb)	
Tandoori Jhinga	£8.50
Tandoori Thali (n)	£9.00

Chef's Recommendations

Chicken	£6.00
Paneer	£5.00
Duck	£7.50
Lamb	£6.30
Vegetables	£5.00
King Prawns	£8.50

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Meen Mollee	£8.50
Murgh Masala (n)	£6.95
Chicken Rezalla	£6.50
Murgh Kholapuri	£6.30
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Makhani Chicken	£6.00
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Prawn Biryani	£6.80
King Prawn Biryani	£8.95
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Drinks

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Healthy Shakes	£2.25

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MP EXPRESSES HIS 'DISAPPOINTMENT' AS... Wellbeing Centre seeks vital funding

VALE MP Alun Cairns has expressed disappointment that the Woodland Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre in Barry hasn't received support from the Barry Regeneration Board for their funding bid.

Since last August, the Vale MP has supported Barry residents who aim to bring a specialist hydrotherapy pool and facilities to the centre of Barry, at the disused site on Woodlands Road.

Over recent months, Craig and Natalie O'Shea and their business partner Sarah Moignard, have met several times with the Vale MP on the site to discuss their intention to create a facility, centered around a hydrotherapy pool, that will give adults and children suffering from profound physical disabilities the opportunity to experience movement without pain.

The business partners were seeking financial support from the Barry Regeneration Scheme, with their application being considered at the recent board meeting.

However, no decision was made to support the new business venture at this time.

The team are due to meet with the Waterloo Foundation as they look for

financial investment and their bank to add to their own significant financial investment in the project.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm disappointed that the Woodland Aquatic Centre team did not achieve an outcome from their recent application to the Barry Regeneration Scheme.

"It must be frustrating to not have the scheme's guaranteed support, but also to have not received an absolute rejection for their grant application does offer some hope.

"To know that this derelict area on the corner of Woodlands Road and Tynewydd Road could provide a much needed facility for the local community is something I'm keen to support.

"With only two hydrotherapy pools accessible at the University Hospital Wales, the opportunity for individuals in Barry and across the Vale to access such facilities are almost non-existent.

"I'm pleased to hear that the business partners are still absolutely committed to the project.

"I understand they are to meet with the Charity Bank and the Waterloo Foundation.

"The team are also hopeful for positive news on their planning application for the site."

Christmas bonus for local good causes!



Coun Fred Johnson, MP Alun Cairns and Barry branch manager, Adrian Higham with representatives of the local group

LAST month, Waitrose Barry, Vale MP Alun Cairns and Coun Fred Johnson presented cheques to six local causes for a total of £6,000.

The causes listed all benefited from the 'Community Matters' scheme in November and December: Gwalia; Cadroxton Primary School; Vale Young Carers Project; Intersensory Club; Friends and Neighbours; Penarth Live at Home Scheme.

Community Matters is the 'green token' scheme that helps Waitrose partners and their customers support their local community. Branches normally

donate £1,000 per month, which is divided proportionally between three nominated local organisations, according to the number of green tokens customers vote with.

During the festive period, Waitrose gave an additional £1m to local good causes through its Community Matters scheme in November and December, so each branch donated £2,000 each month.

Shop robbed in Dinas Powys



POLICE have released this CCTV image (above) of a man, following a robbery at Martins Newsagents, Castle Drive, Dinas Powys, at about 7.30am on March 13.

They say the suspect entered the shop and threatened a 47-year-old woman with an iron bar before she handed over a quantity of cash.

It is believed that he then left the shop and fled in the direction of Murch Road.

The man is described as 5'8 to 5'10 tall, stocky build, wearing a black balaclava, a black top with a grey stripe across the middle, dark bottoms which were tucked into his socks, and white training shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Barry CID on 01446 731606, 101, or Crimestoppers (free) on 0800 555111.

Barry continues support for Fairtrade, and Haiti victims

ON Friday, March 8, the Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, hosted a coffee morning to raise funds for 'Compassion' and its work in Haiti, and also to advertise and sell Fairtrade products.

The morning raised £160 for compassion and everyone enjoyed the gathering.

The Borough Arms in High Street, Barry, has generously agreed to hold an event in May and has volunteered to put on a free buffet and a DJ.

Haiti Hospital Appeal was founded by two British drama students in 2006. After the quake, it established Haiti's first emergency spinal cord unit which uses sport for rehabilitation.

Last summer, it brought Leon Gaisli, who lost his wife, eight children and the use of his legs in the earth-

quake, to compete in the London 2012 Paralympics – thereby inspiring thousands of Haitians disabled by the quake and challenging the stigma against disability in that country.

Now NHA is opening Haiti's first purpose-built sports centre for disabled athletes.

It transforms the lives of those it seeks to help.

This inspiring charity is surely worthy of support as well. Therefore, whatever is raised at the Borough Arms will go to them.

Many thanks to all who attended the coffee morning. To donate to the above charity, go to haitihospitalappeal.org. **Godfrey Knight, Barry.**

(See picture and words on page 29)

NEWS FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Insights into Wales, a Millennium ago...

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum meeting last week, was Mr Brian Davies, who spoke knowledgeably about the early history of south Wales, in particular focusing on our home area of Glamorgan.

The coming of the Normans in 1066 did not, in fact, have any effect on Wales. Actually, the four Welsh kingdoms, were highly delighted about the defeat of their old enemy!

South Wales was made up of two Kingdoms, Dyfed and Morgannwg, and when the wife of one of the kings fancied the other's wife, border war broke out. The rag-tag armies finally faced up to each other at Hirwaun, where the Morgannwg king had persuaded eight Norman knights to help him with the promise of the 'Manor of Miskin'.

After the Dyfed army fled at the sight of the well armed knights, the king of Morgannwg reneged on his promise and refused to hand over Miskin to the knights. They took their revenge and killed him. Then took over the Keep at Cardiff Castle and a small coastal zone.

The Welsh were ensconced in the old Castell Coch, and for

many years the two kept an eye on each other.

It was not until 100 years after the Battle of Hastings that the Normans eventually occupied the whole of Wales.

In 943AD, the first Welsh assembly was formed, and they wrote a unified set of Laws for Wales. In 1739, the first printed Book of Laws was published.

Brian then related some of the laws to the forum: In the case of murder, the murderer and his family were required to pay £1 to each brother, and smaller amounts to all the cousins, down to the fifth cousin, who received seven pennies.

Marriages were only valid for seven years, after which if the wife left, she had to repay her dowry, unless she had leprosy or bad breath!

New member Clive Sims was welcomed by the chairman, and a further welcome is open to all to come along to The Barry Men's Forum in Windsor Road Church Hall every Thursday morning at 10.15am.

On March 28, the speaker will be Mike Cheeseman, whose talk is entitled 'Dog Sled Racing'. The week after is about the Western Welsh Bus company.

For further information, contact chairman Peter Westcott on 02920 594881. **PMW**

Special Jubilee trees planted at Wenvoe

THE Vale Council held a special tree planting event recently, to mark the official opening of the Wenvoe Jubilee Woodland.

The council has created the Woodland with the help of funding from the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme (administered by the Forestry Commission Wales), Tidy Towns and the council's parks and grounds maintenance department, assisted by Coed Cadw/Woodland

Trust. More than 6,000 saplings, including a host of native trees, such as field maples, oaks, alders and rowans, have been planted by the council team, but the public were invited to come along and plant the final few to complete the woodland, a spokeswoman explained.

Members of Wenvoe Wildlife Group attended the ceremony and planted saplings.

Couns Gwyn John, Rob Curtis and Chris Franks were at the event and were later joined by Alun Cairns MP.

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AMERICAN OPERATION DREAM IS CLOSER FOR EVIE

IN February, The GEM told the story of Evie Broad, a three-year-old girl from Sully, whose dreams of walking are dependent on a special operation in America.

Little Evie was diagnosed a year ago with a form of cerebral palsy – 'spastic diplegia'. Her supporters are trying to raise £60,000 to enable her to make the trip and provide treatment after the operation.

Mum Zara said: "We still have places available for the spring and sparkle charity ball this Saturday, March 23, at the Masonic Hall in Penarth.

"The night is being hosted by the Capitol Radio Station; there will be a two-course meal, entertainment,



ABOVE: Three-year-old Evie Broad.

and an auction."

Tickets are £20 and tables can take up to 10 people.

So far, Zara, husband Jason, and fellow fundraisers have raised £20,000 – and that's in just six months.

A new supporter has stepped in to help the family's fundraising efforts.

Steve Williams said:

"On May 11 this year, I will be going to Tanzania to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, fulfilling a personal ambition, and raising money for this fantastic cause.

"If you would be kind enough to sponsor my climb, all the money raised will go directly to Evie and make a real difference to her life."

To donate to Steve's climb, go to: www.just-giving.com/hopeforevie3TWE

If you want to attend any of the events, such as the charity ball, or would like to help, contact Zara on 07866 417066, or mail hopeforevie3@hotmail.co.uk

Further information is available at www.hopeforevie.co.uk/; and on Facebook and Twitter.

Sometimes this is

FOOD BANK'S STORY IS TOLD

At the March meeting of Colwinston WI, David Schuster from the Vale Food Bank gave an illustrated talk about the work of this organisation in Barry.

The Barry Food Bank opened in September 2011 and since then has fed 2,878 people. They were expecting to feed 700 in their first year so that figure has been quadrupled.

The facts and figures are fascinating, but frightening. He said: "We are all a pay cheque away from a crisis!"

The criteria for having food parcels is crisis – such as when people have had benefits cut or stopped; debt crisis: 'Will I pay the rent or put food on the table for my children?'; redundancy etc.

Various agencies, Citizens Advice Bureau, Churches, Doctors, Social Workers, give a voucher to the needy person or family, and that is taken to the local food bank where it is exchanged for a food parcel.

There are lists of food for one person, two people and families, and the food can be supplied three times in six months.

Sometimes this is

three times in three weeks, or three in one month – depending on the crisis.

There is a cafe in the hall where everyone is greeted and offered free tea and coffee. Although it is a church-based organisation operated through the Trussell Trust, no religious affiliation is necessary for volunteers or clients, although prayers are offered if needed.

The Food Bank was launched in Salisbury by a couple who were collecting on the street for Romania.

A lady asked them how she could help them when she could not afford to put food on the table for her own children?

This couple took her to the local supermarket and bought food for her. This was the start of Food Bank and a trust was set up to run them.

There are 20 in Wales alone, so multiply the figures above by 20 and approximately 56,000 people have been helped in their time of crisis.

Each of the members brought a bag of goods and David went back to Barry with a boot and a back seat full.

He thanked everyone for their contributions.

Vital Island road

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Cairns continued: "If either is agreed, we could expect all the roads to be completed within the 2015 timescale."

The Vale MP said he would be raising the issue with the Vale Council Leader, Coun Neil Moore.

One local campaigner who lives on the Island and wants the project speeded up is Barrie V Evans of the Barry First Group.

Mr Evans said: "I would like to thank the local MP Mr Cairns for highlighting the issue of the road to Barry Island."

Mr Evans said the three-hour wait on the existing Island road on New Year's Day had demonstrated the need for a new route.

"If there was a serious incident or major fire on Barry Island at peak periods, the emergency services would not be able to get through."

"I agree there is an air ambulance service, but I have yet to see a flying fire engine!"

The director of development services at the Vale Council, Rob Thomas, stressed that the council was committed to "doing everything possible to assist in delivering the road to the island at the earliest opportunity".

He said: "Representatives have met with the consortium and will continue to do so in the hope of bringing the construction forward."

"To this end, the council will look at all possible options, including a consideration of the timing for implementation of all aspects of the development, particularly if this means that the construction of the road can be brought forward."

Mr Thomas added: "To suggest that we have turned down an opportunity for completing the road in one early phase, is totally inaccurate and misleading."

● Vale cabinet member Coun Lis Burnett,

attended a packed meeting with residents from Barry Island on March 19 to discuss the access road.

Coun Burnett said she understood their frustration regarding access issues to the island.

She said she was grateful to local AM Jane Hutt for attending to give a Welsh Government perspective, and looks forward to meeting them all again, when she will update them on how the council is moving it forward.

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Barry Comprehensive School pupils take on Techniquet challenge



Students working on the 'Theme Park Challenge'

RECENTLY, the education team from Techniquet, the 'hands-on' science museum based at Cardiff Bay, came to Barry Comprehensive School to work with three year-9 classes on skills-based learning.

The workshops, led by Techniquet staff, were highly interactive and focused on numeracy skills in real life situations – with the students applying number skills in order to solve problems and improve their own learning.

In the 'Back Stage Challenge' workshop, students were required to organise a series of concerts in

castles across Wales, choosing the performing artists and calculating their costs.

In the 'Making Tracks' workshop, students took the role of designers and engineers. Working in groups, the boys were given a design brief to follow and were required to produce a vehicle to the specifications given by a communications company.

In the 'Theme Park Challenge' workshop, students worked in groups to design a new theme park. They prepared a business plan and identified their costs and sources of funding.

Students then pitched their idea with the aim of winning the contract.

The workshops, which were part-funded by the European

Social Fund, really captured students' imaginations, but also encouraged them to see mathematics in a very creative light.

The school would like to thank Techniquet for this learning experience. Many of our young people were engaged enough to aspire to a career there! AC

Fascinating Sully talk on the Sabine...

THE Sully U3A's March meeting was entertained by fellow members, Rosemary and Peter Cook, who took them on an Italian Journey.

Their passion for Italy and the Italian people began in 1963.

After they were married, they moved into a house in Chiswick, London and a few weeks later a couple arrived in a battered old VW and very soon became close friends, along with most of their friends and family in Italy.

Their talk was based on the Sabine, an area just outside Rome, and was illustrated with photographs accompanied by a background of music.

The Sabine is one of the biggest areas for olives in Italy with trees

that are over 1,000 years old and produce huge amounts of olives.

The area keeps to its old traditions of sheep farming and cheese making and Rosemary painted a picture of festivals, food, wine, beautiful medieval buildings, music and local wildlife including non-venomous snakes, lizards, boar, scorpions and fireflies.

By 1997, they had grown to know the area well and decided to take the plunge and buy a property so that they can spend more time there.

Rosemary and Peter's love of Italy was obvious and by the end of the meeting many members had decided they must try to visit the area!

They were thanked for providing such a lovely afternoon by chairman, Gill Mathias.

Sully U3A meets at the Old School, South Road, Sully on the second Thursday of each month when new members are welcome. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 11 when St John's Cymru will give a demonstration relating to emergency situations.

SC

'Putting record straight at Dinas Powys'

DINAS POWYS community councillors receive lots of comments about the architecture of the very modern houses that have been developed at Old Farm Mews, adjacent to the Star Inn in the village.

As a matter of procedure, the application was sent by the Vale of Glamorgan to the community council planning committee for their observations.

That committee considered the plans and the objection sent to the Vale was: "We re-iterate our previous objection that the design of the proposed housing is not suitable for a site within the Dinas Powys Conservation Area".

I then, as a ward member, 'called it in' to the Vale planning committee for a decision, instead of it being decided under delegated powers by Vale planning officers.

When the application went before the Vale committee, I called for a site visit, which was attended by some of the members and officers.

On that occasion, members are able to see detailed plans prior to the evening's meeting.

After the official site visit was closed, an opportunity was given to local councillors to express their opinion as vehemently opposed to the very modern design of the buildings in a conservation area.

At the meeting of the planning committee I and Coun Keith Hutton argued against the officers' recommendation to allow the application.

Despite some support from other members, the decision to approve was taken on a majority vote.

One of the arguments from officers was that 'just because it is a conservation area there doesn't have to be a 'pastiche' of what is already there!'

So far, I personally have met only two people who like the development, and on a daily basis I, as chairman of the community council, am asked why it was allowed.

As a result, I just want to put on public record that it wasn't the community council which recommended approval.

Coun Val Hartrey, chairman, Dinas Powys community council

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Regeneration theme takes centre stage at business breakfast



ABOVE: The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, thanked the college's hospitality students for serving an excellent breakfast. Images by Glyn Evans.

THE theme of Barry Regeneration took centre-stage at a spring business breakfast hosted by the Vale's Assembly Member Jane Hutt on Friday, March 15.

The event took place in the Colcot Hospitality Suite, at Cardiff and Vale College in the town, and it was perfectly timed to consider the Welsh Assembly's latest strategy in helping to breathe new life into parts of Wales.

The old regeneration areas – of which Barry was one – are going, but the Welsh Government says it has a £30 million pot to allocate and it is up to councils to present them with convincing new cases.

Regeneration is a hot topic in the town at the moment because the current funding ends in March 2014, and one potential project welcomed by Island traders, the John Collins' aquarium plan for Nell's Point, seems unlikely to go ahead.

Coun Lis Burnett, the Vale Council cabinet member responsible for regeneration, told guests representing a wide



Urban regeneration expert Richard Essex.



Guest speaker, Vale cabinet member Lis Burnett.

range of sectors in the community, that work which had started in Barry was setting a marker of what can be achieved.

"We will be investing over £3 million to breathe life into the crown of south Wales – Barry Island.

"Major work is happening on the Island and we have a sharp eye on delivery and implementation which has to happen before March 2014."

But Coun Burnett stressed that in the mean time work was also going on to produce a bid for further funds and she was confident the town could put forward compelling arguments to the decision makers in Cardiff.

"We have to have a clear idea of what is planned for the future and the challenge is to

show the rest of Wales what Barry is about. "We believe we are well placed to put in a bid in October."

She stressed that applying for funding would not succeed because of deprivation, but putting forward a convincing case of what investment would achieve.

She said the test of regeneration would be: "Do people in Barry feel they have a better future and employment opportunities when regeneration finishes?"

Richard Essex, an expert in urban regeneration, told the guests that Barry's starting point was encouraging.

"The waterfront has transformed Barry. In comparison to other town centres, it is looking fairly healthy to me – but the job is never done."

He insisted that regeneration had to be an on-going aspiration, like

work on the Fourth Bridge – a continuous process.

Mr Essex argued that Barry is well placed to be a success because it is part of the south-east Wales business community, it borders the St Athan enterprise zone, and is a 'coastal community' – something the Welsh Government mentions in its qualifying criteria in the latest regeneration document.

The Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, said: "We had all sectors represented at the breakfast – public, private and voluntary, as well as churches, heritage and community groups, the 50s Forum and Over 50s Forum."

"The Principal of Cardiff and Vale College, Mike James, also gave good news about future plans for the college at the Waterfront."

"The event provided a springboard for the next phase of the regeneration of Barry."

"With expert advice on key factors to consider, provided by regeneration expert, Richard Essex, the breakfast discussion helped to secure the commitment of all who can make the next stage a reality for the on-going regeneration of Barry."

(SEE STORY TO THE RIGHT)

EASTER BONNETS ARRIVE EARLY IN CADOXTON!



CADOXTON family and friends group were recently visited by the play team, Connor and Julia, and parents and children had great fun making Easter bonnets and crafts.

Everyone got in on the act, including crossing patrol man, Mr Ernie Ling. The children were eager to model their hats and crafts at the end of the session!

New members welcome every Thursday afternoon at Cadoxton Primary School.

Barry's iconic project seems a world away

BARRY is still seeking that iconic project that will put it on the south Wales map for years to come.

In recent years, regeneration funds have improved local streets and parks, and boosted local projects, but many people who remember Butlins and the glory days of the Island still dream of a scheme that will boost the town for decades to come.

There have been suggestions of a marina in the docks, a technical college on the Island, an indoor leisure and entertainment complex on the site of the Pleasure Park and an aquarium at Nell's

Point. So far none has materialised.

In a report to the Vale cabinet this week, Coun Lis Burnett pointed out that there were risks in a marketing campaign centred around proposals for an aquarium and family centre.

The report said: "Officers working alongside the Welsh Government have appraised the process, costs and risks associated with taking forward the targeted marketing approach as advocated by LDP/Collins."

"It has been concluded that the approach suggested isn't one which has been used by the public sector or Welsh Government and, there-

fore, has risks associated with it. The advice, therefore, is not to follow this approach, as it is not considered that it provides best value for the council's limited resources."

"There was also a general view that there was an initial need to market the site to assess the level and type of interest that may exist."

Traders on Barry Island had backed John Collins, a former Pleasure Park owner with huge experience in providing entertainment complexes throughout Europe, to be able to deliver something successful, so the latest turn of events will come as a blow.

At a business break-

fast event hosted by Jane Hutt AM at Cardiff and Vale College, Paul Haley of Pride in Barry, said the Collins plan was an opportunity that should be seized.

Mr Haley explained: "I approached John Collins, who is a world-renowned operator of indoor attractions – something that could make Barry a significant place in phase two of the work. The predicted visitors and spend potential for Barry Island is huge." If the Collins project does not go ahead, it begs the question: just when will Barry see its next iconic project?

Intrepid pals' Tsunami appeal

TWO Barry pals are planning to walk the equivalent of Barry Island to Brecon, over extremely arduous terrain and climb three times the height of Wales's highest mountain, Mount Snowdon.

Gareth Huw James (aka Flynn) and Tracey Lawrence are regular walkers with the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA), south Wales branch and are attempting to walk the group's 50-mile challenge walk, The Taith Torfaen, in 23 hours.

The walk will be led by the group secretary, Mr Dave Morgan, and is split into two sections both starting and finishing at Pontypool Leisure Centre in Torfaen.

Gareth and Tracey are taking on this difficult challenge to raise for money for the HAT

(Hope and Trust) Foundation, a Barry-based charity run by their friends, local business man Cavan Sullivan, the owner of Welsh Window Systems, his wife Debra, daughter Aimee and charity trustee Mr Graham Davies.

The HAT Foundation was established in 2005 in response to the south east Asian Tsunami which occurred on December 26, 2004.

The two friends hope to raise £1,200 to pay for new shoes and socks for all children of the Horigampita School and a full starter pack for children attending school for the first time.

Should you wish to donate, visit Gareth and Tracey's HAT Foundation website sponsorship page at the following address, <https://www.charity-checkout.co.uk/1131476/donate2>.

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Windows – taking a second peep

A YEAR ago, Steve produced a first look at Windows 8, six months before its full release. It's a step-change after 17 years of development from Windows 95 to Windows 7.

We thought, then, that many people would stick with Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7 and not upgrade to Windows 8 until they must. So it has proved.

Windows 8 is geared to be used with a touch-screen as can be seen on smart-phones and tablets.

It can, of course, also be readily used with a mouse, but the plan is to encourage customers to get the full benefit of touch-screen technology across all platforms.

Mike J now uses Windows 8 on a laptop (no touch-screen) and described what he has done so far, using a standard

mouse. The first difference is that you must have a (free) Microsoft account with a password that must be entered when starting Windows 8. It encourages a better approach to personal computing security.

The next difference is that the START button has gone. For years, Microsoft were slated for providing a start button that had to be pressed to STOP the computer.

There were howls of derision, but now it's gone, people miss it! Its function is still available, of course, but it is called something else and put into the CHARMS menu.

The Charms menu appears whenever the pointer goes to the right-hand side of the screen. It reveals several icons for basic features.

The desktop is new, as is access to the programmes, but these are such basic operations that one quickly gets used to them.

The treat is that the whole thing starts up and closes much faster.

Mike wonders if the speed will be retained as the computer is loaded with more applications.

To reduce clutter on the opening screen Microsoft has introduced invisible hotspots in the corners: when the pointer hits one there is a predetermined response and an icon appears.

These differences in operation should quickly become second nature and present no difficulty.

It is possible to customise the machine to use a more familiar interface.

There was no time to dig further into customisation, but if Microsoft is true to form, there will be endless options available.

There are much better parental controls for safe use by children.

Should you upgrade? Mike thinks it's a coin-toss – yes, if you want the latest stuff. You might not find enormous benefit by upgrading from Windows 7.

If you are running anything older than 7 you will notice the benefit, otherwise you will probably wait until you need to replace your kit and get Windows 8 pre-installed.

One word of caution: not all programmes will run under Windows 8. Download the (free) Upgrade Advisor programme from Microsoft to identify any application that will not run.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 26 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth 7.30pm for 8pm. Kevin S will be showing how to use Powerpoint.

See our website at penarth-computerclub.co.uk.

HOWARD DESMOND

IN BRIEF

Easter service

THE church of St Lawrence at Fort Road, Lavernock, will be celebrating Easter on Sunday, March 31 at 3pm. The organist will be Miss Anne Thomas, and the service will be led by Rev Margaret Stark. Enquiries to 02920 701303

Coffee morning

AGE CYMRU will benefit from the Mayor of the Vale's charity coffee morning being held in the corporate suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry on March 26 at 10.30am-12 noon.

Car boot sale

ROMILLY Primary School car boot sale will be held on April 14 from 2pm-4pm.

Vale choir's first concert reaches charity target



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ABOVE: The choir, photographed in rehearsal at Ewenny Priory, under the musical direction of Lindsay Gray (below right).

A NEWLY-FORMED Vale choir, Caritas, held a successful first concert in Ewenny Priory recently – and raised £1,000 for the NSPCC in the process.

The leader of the choir, Lindsay Gray, said that the tickets had sold out two weeks before the concert took place, and that the next concert will be in St

German's, Roath, Cardiff, for the charity WaterAid, on Thursday, June 27, at 7.30pm.

He said: "The central piece was the famous *Miserere* by the Italian composer Allegri, in which a solo quartet of Helen Pugsley and Becky Donkin (sopranos), Jonny Titchin (counter-tenor) and Steffan Jones (baritone) sang from the distant upper chapels in the medieval Priory; Helen Pugsley was outstanding on the very high part for which this piece is particularly famed!

"We also performed works by Thomas Tallis, Orlando Gibbons, Henry Purcell, Bach and Mozart, as well as a recently composed piece by Tommy Hewitt Jones who composed the Olympic Mascot theme

WHAT'S ON in brief:

Rhoose talk
RHOOSE and District History Society will meet this Friday, March 22, at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road (side entrance at 7.30pm). Entrance is £1 to cover costs.

Coun Jeffrey James, the club's chairman, said: "This month, we are pleased to welcome Colin Scott, who will give a talk on the 'Wonderful Western Welsh'.

"I am sure people have fond memories of this bus company and the service they used to provide. All are welcome."

Antiques fair
ON March 23-24, Amber Fairs will be displaying a range of antiques and collectables at Cottrell Park Golf Resort from 10am to 4pm.

They include jewellery, silverware, porcelain and pottery.
Admission £1 adults, children admitted free.

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS ROUND-UP

Mother's day tramp through Llantwit past and present

GERAINT and his sheepdog Patch recently led a walk in between Nelson and Ystrad Mynach at Parc Penallta, created from the disused black coal tips of the old Penallta colliery which, despite successfully weathering the miners' strike in the mid 1980s, was shut down in 1991.

Now the land is covered with woods, ponds, wetland areas and spiky grass and contains Britain's largest earth sculpture in the shape of Sultan, a pit pony that lies on his side with one ear sticking up, formed out of metal.

Following pathways to the valley bottom, a climb followed to Mynydd Eglwysilan to Llanfabon.

They crossed meadows to walk through part of Nelson and Wern Park, where the buildings surrounding the football pitch are covered in tasteful art and where a nature reserve has been established.

Then once more entering Parc Penallta, all that was left was the gradual climb back uphill to the start.

The following day, Mothering Sunday, saw hosts Janet and John being joined by six walkers and Jodie the dog for a tramp in the Llantwit Major area on a dry morning but with a blustery cold wind.

Narrow lanes led to fields and that was followed by mud, glorious mud, which had been churned up by loose cattle on the narrow pathway above Cwm Col-Huw, and after

much sliding they reached the coast.

Drier cliff top paths led them to Tresilian Bay, where they were able to go inside Reynard's cave, only accessible at low tide, before pausing for some refreshment on the pebble beach in this small cove that (no doubt) was frequented by smugglers in days gone by.

Turning inland, they crossed agricultural fields and some of the different types of stone stiles that grace the area before returning to Llantwit, where the Ogney Brook and the Hoddnant merge to form the Afon Col-Huw.

In the 5th century, St Illtud, who gave Llantwit its name, founded a monastic set-

tlement near the present church, but all traces of that monastery have long been lost.

Tramping past the War Memorial and surrounding buildings, which date back to the Tudor period, the group returned to the town hall car park, after a refreshing half-day walk.

On March 23, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre to join the 11-mile moderate/hard exploration of the Iron Trail; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156/Rachel on 01446 410545.

Contact www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949

DECLARATION OF NATURE RESERVE IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in pursuance of Section 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Countryside Act 1949 that by a Declaration made on the 7 November 2012 110 hectares (271.82 acres) or thereabouts of land situated to the west of Lavernock Road, Penarth in the Vale of Glamorgan being part of Cosmeston Country Park (shown edged red on the plan attached to the said Declaration) is being managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

Certified copies of the said Declaration with plan attached may be inspected without charge at Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry between the hours of 8.30 am and 5.00 pm Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 am to 4.30 pm on Friday.

Dated this 21st day of March 2013

D Marles
Head of Legal Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL A MYNEDIAD I GEFN GWLAD 1949 CYHOEDDI GWARCHODFA NATUR YM MHARC GWLEDIG COSMESTON BRO MORGANNWG

HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN, yn unol ag Adran 19 a 21 Ddeddf Parciau Cenedlaethol a Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad 1949, mai trwy Ddatganiad a wnaed ar 7 Tachwedd 2012, y bydd rhyw 110 hectar o dir (271.82 erw) i'r gorllewin o Lavernock Road, Penarth, Bro Morgannwg, sy'n rhan o Barc Gwledig Cosmeston (a nodwyd ag ymyl goch yn y cynllun a gysylltwyd wrth y Datganiad), bellach yn cael eu rheoli fel Gwarchodfa Natur Leol.

Cewch weld copïau ardstyiedig o'r Datganiad hwn a'r cynllun yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfeydd Dinesig Heol Holton, Y Barri, rhwng 8.30am a 5.00pm o ddydd Llun hyd ddydd Iau a rhwng 8.30am a 4.30pm ar ddydd Gwener.

Dyddiedig 21 Mawrth 2013

D Marles
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Swyddfeydd Dinesig
Heol Holton
Y Barri CF63 4RU

Vale parents will get Foreign Office backing in Turkish safety campaign

TWO Vale parents who find themselves having to fight their case through the Turkish legal system have been encouraged by the promise of support from the Prime Minister, David Cameron.

Julie and Terry Potter have been campaigning for higher safety standards in Turkey following the death of their daughter, Cerys Potter, in a white water rafting incident in July 2010.

They are also looking for justice, and believe that the organisers should be brought to account.

Recently, Vale MP Alun Cairns raised their situation at Prime Minister's Question Time in the House and Commons – and the PM said that he would ask the Foreign Office to take a close interest in their case.

Mr Cairns has been working closely with the

family and they have pressed the Turkish Authorities for a criminal prosecution against the individuals responsible – and against the Tourist Board.

They all believe that unless action is taken, the lack of basic safety standards will continue and more holidaymakers will be killed.

Mr Cairns said: "Cerys was the ninth person to die in a rafting incident on the Dalman River in recent years. Most of the deaths have been caused by rafts overturning and the victims getting trapped underwater by the strong currents."

He said that the parents' efforts have been frustrated by the bureaucracy of the Turkish legal system.

However, such is the Potters' commitment, they have even funded the travel of witnesses from the UK to appear in the Turkish courts.

They have also been to Turkey more than 12 times since Cerys' death.

The MP went on: "I am determined to do all

possible to support the parents. This is such a sad case and the scandal of poor safety standards continues.

"We have had some success with the TUI travel group, who have now changed their guidance but we want the Turkish Tourist Authority to play a major part in delivering higher standards.

"The prosecutions are important, not only for justice to have prevailed but also because this is

the only way we can change the way in which rafting operators work.

"We want to do everything possible to prevent any such repetition of the horrible incident of July 2010.

"The Foreign Office has been of some help but we expect a lot more. I am pleased that the Prime Minister showed an interest in the matter and we expect that this will give us a new momentum."

WHAT'S ON / in brief Farmers' Market Easter egg hunt

AN EASTER chicken will be visiting the Farmers' Market in Penarth on Saturday, March 23, to organise a free Easter egg hunt for the children.

The market will be at Westbourne School from 9.30am to 1pm and the Easter egg hunt will run throughout the morning.

A spokesman said: "Come along and meet our very special chicken and seek out the Easter eggs hidden around the market."

Tax help for elderly

A FREE tax surgery for those over 50 is being held by Age Concern Cardiff and Vale at the Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, on March 25, 9.30am-11.30am. For further information, contact 01446 732385.

Welsh learners celebrate success on St David's Day



ABOVE: WELSH LEARNERS WITH THEIR CERTIFICATES.

ST DAVID'S Day brought adult learners together at Palmerston Centre to celebrate their success on Welsh courses in the Vale last year.

An open day saw visitors try free taster lessons in Welsh for beginners, as well as in other subjects taught through the medium of Welsh, including French, drama, singing and computing.

Coun Stuart Egan, cabinet member for adult services, presented certificates to Welsh learners at all levels, from those who had attended taster courses to those nearing fluency.

The ceremony was opened by Dr Rachel Heath-Davies of Cardiff and the Vale Welsh for Adults Centre, with colleague Dr Adrian Price congratulating each learner.

New Welsh taster courses will start in centres across the Vale next term, and anyone who would like further information on Welsh for adults courses, collecting certificates of achievement, or adult learning through the medium of Welsh is welcome to contact the Vale's new welsh for adults coordinator, Mared Furnham,

mfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or 01446 733762.

Dathlu Llwyddiant Dysgwyr Ddydd G yl Dewi

DAETH dysgwyr ynghyd i ddathlu eu llwyddiant wrth ddisgu Cymraeg ar gyriau ledled Bro Morgannwg y llynedd, yng Nghanolfan Palmerston Ddydd G. y Dewi. Cafodd ymwelwyr i'r diwrnod agored gyfle i fynychu dosbarthiadau blasu Cymraeg i ddechreuwr, yn ogystal â sawl pwnc arall a ddysgwyd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, gan gynnwys Ffrangeg, Drama, Canu

POLICE ADVICE SESSION

COMMUNITY police from Castleland community ward, Barry, will be visiting the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, on March 26 (10am) to give advice. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

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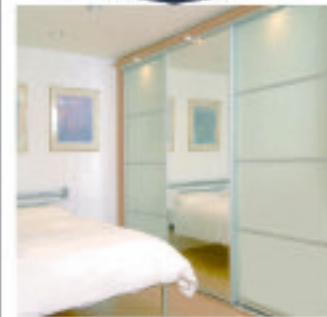
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Tough decisions mean 'challenging' few weeks

THE last couple of weeks have been both frustrating and challenging, but despite this, many decisions have been made.

Some of them have been difficult, but I trust that residents understand why these decisions were necessary.

We had the debacle of a leaked report on schools. Thankfully, the cabinet have now had the opportunity of a confirming that three schools will remain open, despite the unfounded rumours that a decision had been taken to close them.

As many know, a Scrutiny Committee report was leaked, despite the fact that none of the issues had been considered or agreed by the Vale cabinet members.

The cabinet decided it had to counter the rumours of the alleged school closures, and we felt it important to scupper the misinformation, and confirm that we did not agree with the findings of the scrutiny report and have decided not to close the schools.

I trust that this will put an end to the matter.

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council



We have also recently set the council tax for the Vale. This has not been easy and although the rise is high in percentage terms, it still leaves the Vale with a council tax lower than the average in Wales.

The rise on a band D property is less than a pound a week.

We have had to take tough decisions, but we have set a strategy in place for several years to come that will ensure that education, social services and those most vulnerable in our communities, can be protected as much as possible.

I know some people will be upset at the rise, but we have also used a considerable amount of our reserve money to lessen the increase.

I think that this will be seen in the long run, as a practical, progressive and sensible course of action.

As a cabinet, we have

also been on the road again, this time having an evening meeting with the residents of Wick.

It was a very lively and invigorating meeting, and I would like to thank all of those who turned up to quiz us and share their issues and problems with us.

We will be getting back to them via the community council with our comments on what was discussed.

As well as visiting local communities, the cabinet is also visiting local schools to discuss issues with the pupils.

Last week we visited and met Llantwit Major Comprehensive School council members, and we had a very active discussion with those pupils in the school.

They were very aware of local and national issues and we had an extremely informative and interesting debate.

I would like to thank

the pupils and the school for giving us this opportunity.

I look forward to continuing our work with the young people in the Vale in achieving a youth cabinet and youth mayor with whom we can work with in the future.

I also had a wonderful experience last week in attending and presenting certificates at the Vale Youth Awards ceremony, where we were entertained by a variety of young artists between the presentations of the awards.

It showed just how many young people in the Vale are talented, committed to volunteering, and working so hard to create a better society in which to live.

I congratulate all those nominated, as well as the winners on the night. I look forward to next year's event.

I should also like to congratulate the Welsh rugby team on a fantastic display on Saturday and throughout the championship.

They were magnificent and I am really proud to be Welsh.

Let's hope that as many of the team as possible join the Lions on their tour of Australia.

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'Strong response to hospital petition'

– SUPPORT GROWING SAYS COUNCILLOR

A PETITION insisting that services at the Princess of Wales Hospital must be protected, has sparked a strong public response – according to a Llantwit Major councillor.

Coun Gwyn John told The GEM: "The current situation is that the Llantwit Major Town Council petition is growing very fast, with huge support from the residents of Llantwit Major and surrounding villages.

"Everyone is working very hard to remind the UHB that the residents of the rural Vale mean business.

"In the last week, it has been very clear to everyone the importance of Princess of Wales and the services it provides.

"It has been noted that Heath Hospital has called off the immediate plan to modernise the A & E unit due to begin last week, which would have taken 36 weeks to complete.

"I also saw the comments of Alun Cairns MP in his GEM column last week, that he plans to

have a cross-party public meeting on the very same issues that we have worked on for the past six weeks.

"While Mr Cairns is a little late coming on board, there is nothing political about this issue and everyone in the western Vale needs to work together to save the services at Princess of Wales.

"The petition can be signed at the Chocolate Box and the flower shop at Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, also at the town hall.

"Anyone who wishes

to take a petition to collect signatures may collect a form from the town clerk at the town hall. The petition will close at Easter.

"I welcome everyone's contribution to the cause."

The petition states that residents of Llantwit Major and District "strongly object to changes at A&E and maternity services at the Princess of Wales Hospital – and that it should be a centre of excellence for the public."

The Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, which has responsibility for the Princess of Wales Hospital, has emphasised that no final decision has been made on changes to its services.

• As The GEM was going to press, Coun John said he, the Vale's AM, Jane Huft and the Mayor of Llantwit Major, Ann Matthews, were due to meet representatives of the University Health Board; and would be asking whether they would attend a public meeting at which people could ask them questions.

Colette Davies, which occurred in India in 2004. Following a joint investigation with Himachal Pradesh State Police in Northern India, and in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service, a 50-year-old man was charged with her murder and fraud.

"During the investigation which continued following the charge, new and significant information came to light which has been reviewed by the CPS.

"As a result of this review it has now been decided that proceedings will be discontinued."

The statement added that the family of Colette Davies have been updated.

Husband of Bridgend woman found not guilty

A MAN accused of the murder of a Bridgend woman has been found not guilty

A statement from South Wales Police said that not guilty verdicts had been recorded against John Clifton Davies of Milton Keynes in respect of alleged offences of murder and fraud.

Mr and Mrs Davies were on their honeymoon in 2004 when she fell to her death from a viewing platform at a tourist spot in the Himachal Pradesh region in India.

A spokesperson said: "In 2010, South Wales Police launched an investigation into the death of 39-year-old

TALES FROM THE VALE

Learning about Easter eve from the 'vellum-covered note-book'

THIS hopes, in what The GEM hopes will be a regular series, is taken from the book *The Vale of Glamorgan, Scenes and Tales among the Welsh*, and the explanatory notes are by Angharad Wynne.

The observations were made in the early 1800s by an anonymous Welshman, who was known to lawyers in Lincoln's Inn, London.

He was described as "a tall, solitary old gentleman who visited his native Vale of Glamorgan every long vacation".

His notebook was published in book form in 1839 after his death, and is still available.

EASTER EVE

A chapter in the notebook, entitled 'Easter Eve', opens with the author recalling the scene in a local churchyard. He describes the tradition of dressing graves and ensuring that churchyards are full of flowers in the lead up to Easter.

"All the village were there, engaged, after the old custom, in trimming and adorning the graves of their deceased relatives. Some were raising the sides with fresh turf, and putting fresh earth upon the surface; and others whitewashed the

stones at the ends; while the women planted rosemary and rue, and the girls brought baskets of spring flowers, crocuses, daffodils and primroses, which were planted in somewhat fantastic figures upon all the graves."

In Welsh, Palm Sunday is known as *Sul y Blodau* – Sunday of Flowers. On this day, it is still customary to decorate family graves with flowers in preparation for Easter.

After the darkness of winter and the solemnity of Lent, graveyards are decorated with flowers, and traditionally new clothes are worn to Church or Chapel.

Family graves are rigorously cleaned, washed, weeded and beautified in readiness for Palm Sunday, and it is considered a disgrace for family graves to be untidy and unadorned on this day.

This chapter also relates the story of the death of an old yeoman. Gwennlian, described as "Ewytth (Uncle) Jenkins's daughter" was dressing his grave on Easter eve and she tells the author about the

mysterious circumstances surrounding her Uncle's death. On the night he died, she had taken the sick old man's breeches from him to sew on a button; "as she was going to sit down, there came a loud rap on the table, that startled her quite."

She settles again, and picks up the breeches to begin sewing when she hears "a double rap...louder by far than the first, and that made all the furniture in the room to ring."

Gwennlian and her maid deduce that this was the old man's Tolaeth. This supernatural death portend, particular to Wales, is usually described in records and folklore manifesting as rapping, or knocks, or heavy thuds, either just before or at the point of someone's death.

There are a number of other accounts of the Tolaeth in Glamorganshire, suggesting that it was a

widespread belief and part of a rich tapestry of superstitions surrounding death and the foretelling of it in this area.

Are you inspired by the Tales from the Vale? Would you like to take an active part in keeping the heritage of the rural Vale alive?

If so, Creative Rural Communities may be able to help. We offer support for community projects that conserve our unique heritage.

We can do this supporting events, festivals, exhibitions or other activities which celebrate the heritage of the rural Vale, a range of projects which improve the rural Vale's natural, cultural or built heritage.

For further information and to discuss your ideas contact Helen Blackmore, Creative Rural Communities, on 01446 704828, or email: hblackmore@vale-of-glamorgan.org.uk.

ANGHARAD WYNNE

PACT meetings

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrell Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry on March 21 at 7pm.

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhooose on March 21 at 7pm.



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AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDALS FOR LOCAL MEN

ARCHIE HUGHES, Defence Support Group (DSG) Chief Executive recently presented Afghanistan campaign medals in a ceremony at MoD St Athan, to two local men following their deployment to the front line.

DSG operates the purpose-built equipment sustainability system (ESS) regeneration capability (RC) workshop in Camp Bastion.

The team repairs equipment, ensuring optimum availability and vehicle survivability, which is saving the lives of servicemen and women, whilst delivering savings of over £90m to MoD.

Married father of four, Mark Bartlett, 45, from Rhooose, was deployed for 13 months as technical logistic support.

He was primarily involved with ensuring availability of spares, specialist tools and test equipment to support the production areas. To date Mark has served 28 years in the civil service.

Speaking of his deployment, Mark said: "I enjoyed my first tour. Working alongside the military and making sure they were equipped was a thoroughly rewarding experience.

"I couldn't have deployed without the support of my family; they remained supportive throughout, even though I spent two Christmases away from home."

Also, amongst the medal recipients was



Ian Cole receives his medal from Archie Hughes, DSG chief executive.

married father of one, Ian Cole (50), from Porthcawl.

As the key account manager for the UK ESS capability support team, Ian manages the team responsible for all technical and non-technical requirements back in the UK supporting DSG Bastion.

Although, Ian hasn't deployed for a fixed period, he frequently flies out to Camp Bastion, where he spends time with the management and support team to address any issues, then relaying them back to his team in the UK.

Ian's deployment may be short, but he still faces the same potential threats as those on longer tours. The award of the campaign medal is in recognition of his accumulated deployments.

Outside his work in DSG, Ian is a coast-guard and station officer for Porthcawl, for which he has received a Chief Coastguard's Commendation for Meritorious Service award for the vital part he played in a large rescue operation.



Mark Bartlett receives his medal.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 766.

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● The rollover, which now stands at £10,000, was not won this week.
● £10: 3 9 2 1 2 6 .
479721, 731919, 786444, 715532, 316224, 535423, 456350, 307378, 549326, 603873, 272479, 733160, 566939, 151633, 570844, 799287, 351912, 281988, 265910.

● £5: 352110, 690172, 497130, 726341, 390810, 389839, 578373, 540624, 941688, 109007,

260211, 359297, 523914, 291179, 742359, 328532, 839496, 291933, 939140, 554067, 755019, 247245, 504755, 214822, 138484, 138550, 107137, 801206, 809958, 883640, 384082, 953780, 638575, 413162, 566697, 341253, 543054, 552977, 318969, 753110, 346271, 232422, 620583, 348293, 963457, 154882, 850582, 850375, 791001, 757673, 146246, 787622, 511223, 586447, 256183, 590520, 495785, 697576, 000438, 000005.
The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.
For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

High-kickers support high-fliers



ABOVE: Sian Jenkins hands over the line-dancers' cheque to Ruth Foscolo.

A DONATION of £183 is winging its way to Wales Air Ambulance – raised by BJ2 line-dancers at their Friday coffee morning class in Penarth.

Mrs Ruth Foscolo (left), of Barry, who nominated the charity, receives the cheque from dance teacher Sian Jenkins, of Bridgend, who each month chooses a worthy local cause to support.

Included in the donation was £30 given by Mrs Pauline Hilditch, of Llantwit Major, in memory of her late father, Frank Gregory, a former ambulance station controller in Lancaster.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window. In any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job that also makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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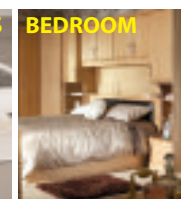
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What's on and where in your area!

Flower power

LORRAINE RAVEY will be resuming informal flower arranging sessions in St Hilary Village Hall at 7pm on March 22, April 26 and May 24. Telephone 01446 772713 for more details.

There will be a small charge to cover the cost of refreshments.

Trees fayre

THE Goedgedacht Trust Easter fayre with refreshments, cakes, jewellery, raffle, handmade craft and games takes place in Trees Village Hall at 12pm-2pm on Saturday, March 23.

The trust is based in rural South Africa to help educate children in 'health and well-being, personal development and care for the planet.'

Antarctic adventure

THE next meeting of the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will be on March 27 at 7.30pm in the Llantwit Hall, Llantwit Major, when Dr Mark Picton will talk about his journey to Antarctica.

You do not have to be a member to attend; all are welcome and entry, refreshments and raffle are free of charge. Contact the secretary, Sylvia Geary, on 01446 792087.

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall.

Joseph Atkin, head gardener at Aberglasney, will give an illustrated talk on

the year in the gardens and new developments.

Touch Trust event

A WELLBEING and spiritual awareness event is taking place on Saturday, March 30 from 10am-5pm.

Holistic therapies, aura photography, arts and crafts, jewellery, tarot and clairvoyant readers, crystals, esoteric astrology, and lots more.

There will be a cafe with refreshments all day.

The event is at the Paget Rooms, Victoria Road, Penarth.

Entry is £2 as a donation to The Touch Trust, www.touchtrust.co.uk.

Families

First

THE formal launch of Families First in Bridgend takes place with a free exhibition and fun day on an Easter theme between 10am-3pm at the Bowls Hall, Bridgend Recreation Centre.

It will promote the work of the Family Information Service in the county borough.

Free activities for the children throughout the day, include Krazy Karts, drumming workshop, bouncy castle, face painting and craft activities.

For more information, contact the Family Information Service on 0800 180 4320.

Mair's walk

on June 9
MAIR'S Walk this year is a month earlier than normal, and is on June 9 and will be led by Max Boyce.

If people wish to get entry forms, they can enter online at www.velindrefundraising.com/bookonline or forms will be available in Bridgend Food Clinic, 5 Nolton Street.

The entry fee is £5 (free for children under 16).

Fancy dress is

optional and this year, there is a television prize for the best fancy dress.

All details will be on the website www.velindrefundraising.com.

Charity golf day

KPC Youth, the charity for young people of our area, are holding their annual charity golf event on June 21.

Cost to enter is just £160 per team of four players, including bar meal at Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

The charity are offering an Early Bird deal of just £140 per team, for entries received before April 13.

For further details, contact Alison on 01656 749219, or e-mail to: kpcyouth@hotmail.com

Exciting NEW STALLS for 2013!

CRAFT FAIR
Saturday 23rd March, 10.30am-4.30pm
Old Hall, Cowbridge

COTTRELL PARK GOLF RESORT
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hosts an
ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR
in the warmth of
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Refreshments available to purchase
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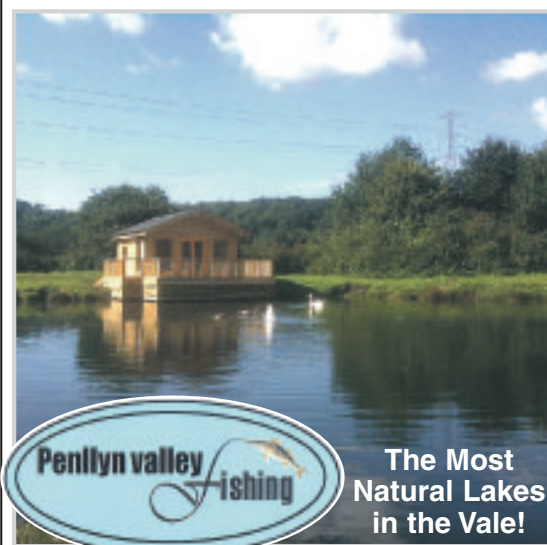
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SPRING INTO EASTER

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street



High Street offers a dazzling array of services and fun at Easter time

HIGH STREET traders offer a community spirit and an array of services that make the area well known throughout south Wales.

New businesses are keen to be a part of its

unique atmosphere. In recent weeks, two new businesses have arrived – Giggles and Beespoke Cycles.

Marie Jones, of Giggles toyshop, said: "We opened on February 9 and offer a huge choice, with many items ideally priced for birthday gifts for the little kid and big kid in all of us."

"People can browse the wooden toys, Welsh books, arts, crafts, rag dolls, soft toys, puzzles, games, costumes and many other gifts. We also have gift vouchers available."

Beespoke Cycles has moved from Palmerston because High Street offers an ideal 'shop window' with its brisk footfall.

Gerard Davies explained: "We've just had our official opening and the customer interest has been really encouraging – in Palmerston, there wasn't the passing trade, but this is ideal. We're the number one cycle shop at 1 High Street!"

Beespoke Cycles has a wide range of bicycles for all the family, and also participates in the 'Bike to Work' scheme, which allows people to purchase bikes at discounted rates through their monthly salary, to encourage fitness and a greener environment.

Another recent entry to High Street is Helin Design, owned by Nalan Candas, who has more than 25 years of experience in dressmaking and design.

Nalan originally trained in Turkey, has also worked in London for six years, and has carried out design and costume work for singers, theatres and famous artists.



Tony Hopkins of Vic Hopkins family butchers (above) is advising people to get their Easter orders in early.

Nalan can create an original costume or dress so you are the envy of your friends – she can also carry out all alterations and repairs.

Established

The bedrock of High Street is its core of long-term retailers.

Sanctuary Gifts has become a well-established business in the last two years, and as Michelle Steele explained it has expanded what is on offer recently.

"We have opened a new print studio and to celebrate the fact, we are running an Easter competition."

"It is an opportunity for people of any age, children or adults, to get creative."

"We want people to bring in their own free hand design – no larger than A4 size – and the best one will be printed on a t-shirt for the winner."

The new print studio is proving popular with customers who want to transfer an image, photo or



Sanctuary Gifts has opened a new print studio, which means you can have your favourite designs on t-shirts.

legend onto clothes. Polo shirts, hoodies, work uniforms – their expertise can be turned to whatever clothing you want.

Sanctuary is well worth a browse. It supports Fairtrade and has a huge selection of gifts for all special occasions.

Dr Bob's Balloons will launch its new children's workshop at an Easter Saturday workshop.

Balloon twisting and sculpture is something children love to get involved in, and they can make some special Easter balloon decorations.

Vic Hopkins Butchers have been serving the people of Barry & The Vale with quality produce for over 45 years and have built up a trust with their customers for excellence.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)



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SPRING INTO EASTER

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street



The new entry on High Street is popular with the children and is called Giggles.



Spoil the loved-one in your life by booking a beauty treatment for Easter at The Beauty Clinic (above).



ABOVE; The number one cycle shop, Beespoke Cycles, is at 1 High Street.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)
With the majority of their meats sourced locally, supporting local farmers, they can confidently say that they know what you're getting when you shop with them!

All of their ready meals are made and cooked in store, using the top local ingredients, and giving their customers confidence in what they are eating.

The owner, Anthony Hopkins, said: "We specialise in what we do and we know what our customers are getting."

"People deserve better than mass-produced food – and want the best from the best!"

Tony advises people to get their Easter orders in early.

On Easter Saturday many of the businesses in High Street plan to put on activities for the children – so enjoy the bonnet parade, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and all that our local High Street shops have to offer.

An Easter bonnet parade and Mad Hatter's Tea Party

ON Easter Saturday, March 30, High Street traders are putting on a series of events for the whole family – and foremost among them is the famous bonnet parade.

After last year's hiatus, Bob Armstrong of Dr Bob's Balloons said traders had brought back the parade by popular demand.

"This year, we are reintroducing the Easter bonnet parade because it is one of High Street's long-standing traditions. "At 11am on Easter Saturday, there will be a procession, up and down the street, as in so many years in the past."

Children are being encouraged to come to High Street with mums and dads or guardians, dressed in fancy dress if they'd like to. There will be prizes for best bonnets and for the best in fancy dress.

Bob said: "We hope to have Jane Hutt AM, Alun Cairns MP and Coun Les Sword, the town's mayor, as judges."

"We hope to conclude with a 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' for the children at Hubanas."

The bonnet parade has three age categories – three years old to five years old, six years old

to 11 years old, and 12 to 100!

Bob said: "We used to have a lady in her nineties who came regularly in her bonnet and we always gave her a prize."

"Events like the parade bring the shops and community together – there's a lovely spirit. "In the past, High Street has won an award for the activities it has put on."

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It doesn't matter whether you want to eat something traditional or exotic, a visit to High Street or Broad Street will provide what you are looking for.

Shahi Noor offers traditional Indian cuisine with a huge range of dishes, generous portions and attentive staff.

If Chinese is more your style, the Oriental Diner on Broad Street is a popular family destination.

Traditional fayre is provided by Caso Paco, which has established a fine reputation over

many years, and Streets Brasserie is famed for its welcoming atmosphere and fine steaks.

The continental flavour of West End dining is supplied by Da Gennaro, which has an excellent selection of Italian courses.

The Little Blue Deli is open in the day-time for people wanting a coffee break or 'snacks on the go', but also serves meals throughout the day and in the evening.

For those that want that little extra product or ingredient for their own cooking, the Food for Thought deli offers a wide choice.

Dining and cooking options in Barry have never been so diverse.

The Little Blue Deli

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www.safervale.co.uk
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German railways' role in Nazi genocide

BRITAIN gave the world the steam railway locomotive. In 1938, 75 years ago, the UK's steam locomotive drivers were nationally hailed as schoolboy heroes, the pop idol equivalents for many generations, especially when they permanently, took the world speed record from Nazi Germany.

Within three years, however, their counterparts on continental Europe were complicit in the biggest industrial and state-authorised act of mass murder that the world had ever seen.

Railways were a key factor in mankind's darkest hour – the Holocaust.

When Germany had broken the steam speed record in 1936, on a VIP special trip by Deutsche Reichsbahn to convince Nazi top brass, two of the guests on board were Heinrich Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich.

Not interested in steam speed records, they forged other plans for the railways of Europe, and created a continent-wide network which led to the

gates of hell.

The murder camp of Auschwitz became the hub of a railway system spanning all the occupied countries, to which Jews, Roma, Sinti, Russian prisoners of war and anyone who did not fit in with Nazi ideology were shipped in appalling conditions on journeys lasting several days to their deaths, usually within hours of arrival, in the gas chambers.

Without the railways, it is debatable whether the Holocaust, in which up to 12 million people including six million Jews were murdered, would have been physically possible.

Not only were German railway staff willing accomplices in running the death camp trains, but they were helped by their counterparts in occupied countries.

For instance, the French national railway system billed the country's police for the cost of sending hundreds of thousands of people to Auschwitz by train – sending the invoice after France had been liberated by the Allies.

NEW BOOK
A new book, *Railways and the*

Holocaust, by Robin Jones, examines the background to the Holocaust and the central role that railways played in Hitler's genocide.

He looks at the lie that ordinary railwaymen either did not know what was going on, or were forced to take part, and highlights the few German railway officials and Nazi party members who refused to have anything to do with the death camp trains – but were never punished.

The volume examines in depth the roots of 20th century anti-semitism in the USA, fuelled through deliberate misinformation and blind illogical scapegoating, and how the idea of a master race originated not in Berlin or Belsen...but in a suburb in Victorian Birmingham, England's second city.

It also looks at Hitler's often-forgotten plan to build a railway across the Sahara using slave labour.

Robin Jones explained: "This is the story of how centuries of blind and irrational hatred of a highly-civilised and accomplished culture culminated in its near



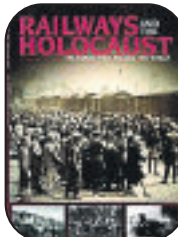
destruction by a twisted mentality, using one of the greatest gifts of the Industrial Revolution, the railways, which shaped the modern world through transport technology."

"The participation of railways in this ultimate act of genocide, serves as a warning as to how ordinary people, who would probably never commit even a trivial crime in their lives, can become willing accessories to mass murder. There are lessons here that should never be forgotten."

Railways and the Holocaust is now available from WH Smith, 132 pages, price £6.99; from Mortons at www.heritagetrailway.co.uk or telephone 01507 529529 to order a copy by post.

Auschwitz (top right) was the ultimate terminus.

The photograph (top, right) shows a train standing at the



brick arch leading into Auschwitz, the hub of a Europe-wide railway network of pure evil.

Hungarian Jews, who have been shipped to the murder camp in boxcars with no food or water, are being selected on the platform as to who will go straight to the gas chambers, or be allowed to live for a few months while being worked to death.

A family of Hungarian Jews (pictured right) make their way alongside the Auschwitz railway tracks to the gas chamber.

A heart-rending sight as a mother and her baby wait with others, old and young, to learn if they are to live or die.



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Lee Daniels' Paperboy fails to deliver



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen
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ZAC EFRON may have made his name as the pin-up lead in the lamentable, teen-friendly *High School Musical* series, but having graduated, he seems intent on carving out a more dramatic career, taking on the likes of *Me and Orson Welles* and *The Lucky One*, albeit to middling acclaim.

His latest film sees him team up with *Precious* director Lee Daniels in *The Paperboy*, where Efron plays Jack Jansen, whose older brother Ward (Matthew McConaughey), a reporter, returns to town to investigate Hillary Van Wetter (John Cusack), a man on Death Row who may be innocent.

The brothers find themselves mixed up with Hillary's pen friend Charlotte

(Nicole Kidman) as their lives, and those of Hillary and Charlotte, become irretrievably intertwined...

If *Precious* saw Lee Daniels announce himself as a director of promise, then the expectation following up that film was always going to weigh heavily. With this in mind, *The Paperboy* fails to build on the promise, a strong set-up weakened by poor execution of story and average performances.

Certainly his evocation of a 1970s Florida beset by racial (and sexual) tension is superb, the film shot in a grainy style that harks back to the filmmaking of that period, and Daniels' visual aesthetic is an undoubted highlight, but when taken down to the nuts and bolts, the mechanics of the story, it starts flailing.

The mixture of a coming-of-age story and thriller isn't an uncomfortable mix, but one that doesn't quite work here, the

elements feeling disjointed and awkward.

Some of the blame for this can be apportioned to the cast who fail to rise above average performances, the main culprit being Zac Efron.

The former *High School Musical*-er spends the majority of his screentime in his pants, and this is a fair verdict on his performance.

While he has shown some promise in his development, he just hasn't got the weight or ability to deliver the goods, his face one of moody disconcertment regardless of what his character is going through.

While both Nicole Kidman and John Cusack offer turns that are OK but unengaging (if very bold), then the best turns come from David Oyelowo and Macy Gray in support, with Matthew McConaughey's understated performance the bedrock of the film.

Its pulpy tone aside, there is just not that much to really endorse the film; there are scenes that are controversial and stick out, but only do so because of the shock factor, not because they're tied to any real drama or emotion.

Ultimately, *The Paperboy* fails to deliver, and for Lee Daniels in particular, it's an underwhelming effort when promising so much.

VERDICT - A sweaty, taut thriller that is undone by a meandering final third and average performances, *The Paperboy* just doesn't deliver the goods. Shock value, and a pleasing visual sense, aside, there is little meat under its gritty veneer. Average.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Cape Fear* (1962), *Killer Joe* (2011)

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IN BRIEF

Fun day
COLWINSTON pre-school are having an Easter family fun day at Colwinston village hall, from 11am on Sunday, March 24.

There will be an Easter bonnet parade, Easter crafts and Easter egg hunt - and a visit from the Easter bunny! Tickets £2 per child.

Spectrum quiz night
MENTAL Health Charity Spectrum will benefit from a quiz night at the Fairways Hotel, Porthcawl at 7pm on Thursday, March 28.

NOT SO CUDDLY QUILTS!

QUILTS of the 'not-so-cuddly kind' go on display at Barry Travellers Gallery this week, the handiwork of quilt maker Judy Stephens of Penarth.

"Some of my quilts are not quite so cosy, with subject matter ranging from politics to pesticides and the pulling down of the Billy Banks housing estate in Penarth," she said.

The show is open, mornings only 7.30am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, from March 19 to May 10.



Judy Stephens with one of her quilts

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Time to take a closer look at lovely...



LLANTWIT MAJOR



OLD AND NEW COME TOGETHER TO MAKE HISTORIC LLANTWIT MAJOR A VERY SPECIAL TOWN IN THE VALE



ABOVE: Work to make the Galilee Chapel at St Illtud's Church an education centre is now well under way.

SPRINGTIME is always a good time to look to the future, and residents and traders in Llantwit Major are doing just that!

New businesses start up, new people move to the town, and new projects – some small, some large – are set in motion.

Of course, alongside the new there is the historic side of Llantwit – something

that is valued and protected by everyone in the town.

A prime example of the old and new coming together can be found at St Illtud's Church, where the ruins of the Galilee Chapel are being transformed into an education centre that should attract hundreds of visitors to the town.

Founded in 500 AD by the Welsh monk Illtud, the area where St Illtud's Church now stands is believed to be

Britain's earliest centre of learning.

It housed a monastic school of more than 1,000 pupils—including, it is said, St David of Wales and St Patrick of Ireland.

The £700,000 project will retain the old walls of the Galilee Chapel, enclosed in glass to preserve them.

As the chapel adjoins the church, it will, in effect, be a new wing to the building, and will display the historic Celtic crosses that are now kept in the church.

With such a rich history to offer, it should attract school groups, history buffs, and tourists alike.

Of course, places that are popular with visitors are also popular places to live.

Phil Jelinek, who runs the property rental business *Lets Move In.co.uk*, waxed lyrical about the town's virtues, citing its "Perfect blend of

old and new, with the old town's little streets, historic inns and a beautiful church, alongside a modern centre with independent shops, supermarkets and cafes".

He said: "There is a great choice of housing in Llantwit. The rental market is particularly strong, with housing being snapped up very quickly.

"My problem is not renting out property, but keeping up with the demand."

The town's improved transport links, especially, thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line, have probably made Llantwit an even more attractive place to live.

Residents are also well served for shops in the town centre, with a high proportion of owner-managed businesses, where the accent is on providing excellent service.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

Debut novel

SIGNED copies of Barry-born author Simon Okill's debut novel, *Nobody Loves a Bigfoot Babe*, are available at Nickleby's Bookstore, Llantwit Major (where he now lives) and at the Cowbridge Bookshop.

by PHILIP IRWIN



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wish everyone a Happy Easter and a prosperous Spring season!

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A VERY SPECIAL TOWN

(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 23)
It is that excellent
service that has helped
John Woods at
Nickleby's Bookshop
survive and prosper in
what is a tough mar-
ketplace.

It is particularly
strong in children's
books, travel guides,
fiction and local histo-
ry.

John recalled a
travel writer saying
that one factor in
judging a small town
was whether it had an
independent bookshop
- so Nickleby's is
doing its bit for the
town.

A former librarian,
he feels that the expe-
rience he has gained
over the years, when it

comes to advising
readers, is a real
strength of the busi-
ness.

He added: "Another
strength is that we can
get any book from
anywhere in the world
quickly, and at a good
price."

Every shopper likes
to come into town and
see something differ-
ent, and monthly craft
fairs at the Llantonian
Hall are proving popu-
lar - and they now
play their part in
attracting local people
and visitors to the
town.

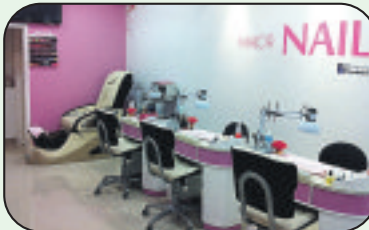
Sue Brooks and
Peta Shields have been
organising them for
two years now, and
growth has been
steady, with the next
fair this Saturday
(March 23).

Peta told The GEM:
"The fairs are now
attended by a host of
stall holders and
skilled crafters - many
from the Vale and
some from further
afield."

"Many local sup-
porters enjoy coming
along for a chat with
friends, a snack and a
browse."

A sense of commu-
nity is an important
part of any town. It
helps local businesses
to thrive, and it can
support a wide variety
of community groups.
One place which is
already a community
centre - the Western
Vale Integrated
Children's Centre
(WVICC) is looking to
attract more local
groups.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 26)



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Time to take a closer look at lovely...

LLANTWIT MAJOR



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EASTER IN LLANTWIT

THE Plaza Toymaster store in Llantwit Major is running a series of Easter egg hunts (from March 25-30).

On average, there will be a dozen clues around the town centre for local children to follow.

Store manager Mike Thatcher said: "Children collect their first clue from Plaza Toymaster then follow the trail."

"Once they have completed the hunt, they return to Plaza Toymaster to collect their prize and to be entered into that day's grand prize draw."

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Clothing Alterations

Time to take a closer look at lovely...

LLANTWIT MAJOR



WVICC community facility questionnaire - deadline March 31st

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

In recent years, as its name implies, the WVICC has been primarily associated with children's activities, but about a year ago it came under the management of the Diocese of Llandaff Board of Social Responsibility.

The centre manager, Paula Malorey-Vibert, told The GEM: "We would like more groups to consider using our community space, and we have rooms suitable for a range of activities."

"Young people's groups and senior citizens would be especially welcome, but our aim is to get to the stage where the centre is open in the evening for a range of community activities."

"As a not-for-profit organisation, any extra income would be

used for improving our facilities."

One new company already successfully using the WVICC as a base, is 'Catch-Up and Play, owned and managed by Sarah Jackson Griffiths.

Sarah recently celebrated completing her first year in the centre – a year that has seen it expand from a baby and toddler group to a drop-in creche with activities for adults and a babysitting service.

The WVICC recently issued a consultation questionnaire, asking the community to indicate any extra activities or facilities they would like to see at the centre. The deadline for handing it in is March 31.

For information about the WVICC or the questionnaire, contact 01446 793030.



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'Park properly or face a £70 fine' – drivers are warned

TRAFFIC wardens will be back on the streets of the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs next month.

The two councils have joined forces and from April 1, anyone caught parking illegally will receive a fine of up to £70.

A total of 17 new Civil Enforcement Officers, wearing black and blue uniforms, will be on the streets seven days a week, including bank holidays.

Twelve wardens will be on patrol in Bridgend, with another five in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Civil parking enforcement refers to the transfer of parking enforcement from the police to local authorities.

BCBC and the Vale Council submitted applications to the Welsh Government last year, to allow the creation of a parking enforcement area across both counties.

Coun Rob Curtis, Vale cabinet member for the environment and visible services, with special responsibility for traffic management, said: "Most drivers are considerate and use designated parking spots; but there are some who think they can park wherever they like,

without any consideration to other road users, pedestrians or traders.

"These are the people our officers will be specifically targeting during our Park It! campaign. Our message to these problem parkers is – park it properly, or face a fine."

Andrew Loosemore, operational manager for highways and engineering for the Vale Council said: "All our Civil Enforcement Officers will be issued with hand-held computers with inbuilt cameras, so they can print tickets, ensure the data is logged on our system, and take photos of the offending vehicles

and of the ticket fixed to the windscreen."

There are two levels of penalty charges, depending on the severity of the parking contravention.

The higher band is £70 (reduced to £35 if paid within 14 days) and the lower band is £50 (reduced to £25 if paid within 14 days).

In cases of late payment, the penalty charge increases to £105 (higher band) and £75 (lower band).

This may be more if the council has to pursue the debt through the use of bailiffs.

Coun Mike Gregory, cabinet member for

resources at Bridgend council, said: "We've all been inconvenienced by inconsiderate or obstructive car parking at one time or another, but for some residents and businesses, it can be a huge disruptive and regular problem."

"Many other councils in Wales have already launched civil parking enforcement schemes, but the partnership approach that is being adopted between Bridgend and the Vale will be unique, and will greatly improve the situation for the benefit of visitors, businesses and residents alike."

AIRPORT BLOW 'WAKE-UP CALL' FOR ASSEMBLY

THE withdrawal of Swiss carrier Helvetic from Cardiff Airport is a wake-up call for the Welsh Government, said regional AM and Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies.

"This news is yet another major blow for the airport, which has seen passenger numbers fall from over two million to around a million in a relatively short space of time."

"It is also a wake-up call for a Welsh Government who are hell-bent on using taxpayers' money to fund the purchase of the airport, without presenting a convincing case for how they will make the acquisition work for the Welsh public," he commented.

"To think that more than £500,000 was spent by the Welsh Government marketing Wales in Switzerland a little over two years ago, it is disappointing to see that Helvetic are now pulling the Zurich link altogether, but clearly for one reason or another, it simply hasn't worked out."

"If the First Minister is serious about this purchase and restoring the airport's fortunes, he needs to start thinking about how they are going to foster route development and bring in new carriers that will offer genuine competition to other alternatives such as Bristol Airport."

"At present, that simply isn't happening," Mr Davies added.

SWOOSH WINS BIG AT YOUTH AWARDS EVENT

MEMBERS of the Swoosh website (www.swoosh.me.uk) editorial group were rewarded recently at the successful Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan Youth Awards 2013.

The awards, run by the Vale and Bridgend Youth service, the Vale Children and Young People's Partnership and Vibe Experience, celebrated the amazing achievements of young people over the past year, in a variety of fields and interests, from the arts to volunteering, and the overall 'Achiever of the Year'.

The Swoosh website won the Welsh Language Award in recognition of its commitment to furthering the Welsh language and culture, and editorial group member Megan Pudney was joint winner, with Motion Control dance tutor Samantha Owens, as 'Young Volunteer of the Year' (18-25) for their work with Swoosh, Penarth Youth Action and Air Cadets, and dance inclusion, tutoring and mentoring respectively.

The editorial group members were also awarded certificates in a number of other categories, including the Recognition Award, the Global and International Award, Young Achiever



ABOVE: Young volunteers and (right) Harry Taylor, receive their awards.

of the Year and Participation Award.

The hard work and dedication of the group members has ensured that the website is a go-to source for young people's news, views and information in the Vale.

The coveted Young Achiever of the Year Award went to 12-year-old Harry Taylor for his brilliant anti drink driving film he produced with the Vale Youth Street Team in St Athan on the V-POD multimedia bus.

His creativity and understanding of the dangers of drink driving impressed the judging panel so much, he was the runaway winner of the evening.

Jessica Peters, one of the editorial group members and nominees of the



night, said about the evening: "I had an amazing night at the Vale Youth Awards, everyone was amazing!"

"A massive well done to all the winners and runners up! So much amazing work is going on in the Vale and Bridgend; so it is good to see it getting some recognition"

Swoosh editor Beckie Jordan said, "The

Bridgend and Vale Youth Awards was an absolutely fantastic event, and I am incredibly proud of our success and the dedication of the young people who make up the editorial group."

"Their commitment to the work they do is second to none, ensuring the website continues to go from strength-to-strength."

RJ

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'FUNNY MONEY' RAISES £300 FOR COMIC RELIEF WITH ITS AMAZING COSTUMES

RED Nose Day was a fantastic Funny for Money event at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School when everyone came to school dressed as their favourite funny person or character and there were literally hundreds of amazing costumes.

During the fun activities, year-6 and their teacher, Mr Ball, filmed their own version of the Harlem Shake and year-3 took part in a Comic Relief quiz.

During the celebration assembly, representatives from each class got the chance to tell their favourite jokes and everyone had a great day.

Deputy head-teacher, Miss Lewis, said that she was very impressed with the effort everyone had made with their imaginative costumes. The event raised around £300 for Comic Relief.

NM



IN BRIEF

CAOS coffee

A COFFEE morning will be held at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, on behalf of CAOS on Saturday (March 23) at 10am-12.30pm. Entry £1 to include tea/coffee. Cake stall, small gifts, tombola and raffle.

Brass band

THE Arcomis international brass event takes place at Cardiff's St David's Hall on Saturday, March 23 at 6pm-7.15pm.

Rhose bingo

RHOSE Community Centre at Stewart Road is holding a bingo session on Saturday (March 23) at 2.30pm. All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the hall.



HEROES AND VILLAINS RUB SHOULDERS FOR COMIC RELIEF IN A BARRY SCHOOL!



STAFF and children at Gladstone Primary in Barry certainly got into the Comic Relief spirit on Red Nose Day when the majority turned up at school dressed as a hero or a villain, or wearing Comic Relief T-shirts in exchange for a contribution towards the charity.

Fun and games took place in the school hall during the afternoon, organised by Jonathan Hill and Ali Griffiths, when staff volunteered to take part in different activities.

Children paid 50p to get a chance to throw a custard pie at their teachers and staff took part in a fun quiz where wrong answers meant getting egged!

All children contributed a joke to make up a Gladstone Joke Book which will go on sale shortly.

So far, the school has raised a staggering £570 for this very worthwhile cause and would like to thank all children and parents for their continuing support, and all staff for being good sports!



STUDENTS' GEOLOGY FIELDWORK

The group taking notes at Newgale.



Investigating mine workings at Broadhaven

BARRY Comprehensive School GCSE geology students travelled to Pembrokeshire recently, to collect data for controlled assessment projects.

The group stayed at Broadhaven overnight and did two days of fieldwork looking at the rocks, minerals and fossils in the area.

They visited Marloes Sands, Newgale and Solva to investigate the geological history of the area. The students will now complete a project in class that will account for 25 per cent of their final GCSE mark.

There's always a welcome in the hillsides for the English rugby legend 'Dai' Duckham...



ABOVE: Artist Picasso Griffiths (left) with David 'Dai' Duckham (and his caricature) together with organiser Paul Fielding.

Report and photographs by Keith E Morgan.

WALES 30 – ENGLAND 3!
What a great game; what an ecstatic day for Wales; a day on which legends were born!

It was also a great day for Prostate Cymru, the Cowbridge-based charity. At a pre-match lunch in the Maldron Hotel, Cardiff, organised by Legends Hospitality, the princely sum of £530 was raised for the charity.

The after-lunch speaker, David Duckham, the former British Lions and England international, generously donated two autographed rugby shirts for the raffle, as well as an autographed caricature of himself by local artist 'Picasso Griffiths' to be auctioned for the

cause. As a member of the 1973 Barbarians team that beat the All Blacks – and because of his side-stepping running style – he was welcomed as an honorary Welshman, 'Dai' Duckham.

After a humorous and informative talk about his rugby career, Dai drew out the names of the winners of the raffle for one British Lions shirt and one English shirt.

The raffle raised £450 and the auction that followed for his caricature, brought in a further £80.

As a bonus, the Welsh team went on to be Six Nations champions and (more importantly) deny England the Grand Slam!



ABOVE (left to right): David Duckham, Gary Hobbs (auction winner), Graham Cook (with England shirt), Paul Fielding and Jason Beament (with Lions shirt).

Mad Chatters' tea party full of favourite characters



ON March 5, children attending 'Kiddie Winkles Childminding' got dressed up after school to enjoy an hour of fun, games, singing and dancing all in aid of the I CAN Chatterbox Challenge and World Book Day.

The children were sponsored by their family and friends, to sing nursery rhymes while being dressed up as their favourite book characters.

I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge is an annual fundraising activity for nurseries, children's groups, parents and childminders. Children aged 0-5 have fun and develop their communication skills by singing songs and rhymes to raise money for children who struggle with their speech and language.

Air Cadets pack their bags for summer trips!



THE FUNDRAISING TEAM AT TESCO.

OVER 20 Air Cadets, including several from Bridgend and Cowbridge, spent St Patrick's Day in the Tesco Extra Superstore in Bridgend, assisting shoppers to pack their bags.

The cadets raised just over £1,000 to boost the Wing Welfare Fund.

Many of the cadets are hoping

to travel to Gibraltar in July to complete the PADI open water scuba diving course. The dream has come a little bit closer, but £12,000 is needed.

Cadets from No3 Welsh Wing are off to the Netherlands in July, to take part in the arduous Nijmegen Marches, and in August, 30 cadets will have a trip to the historic Normandy Beaches.

Flt Lt Stuart Morgan, Deputy

Wing Chairman, No3 Welsh Wing said: "We are delighted to have raised over £1,000 today. This is a large sum of money that will help the Wing Welfare Fund to support cadet activities.

"Cadets are able to pursue a number of opportunities not available to other teenagers. They learn new skills and gain nationally recognised awards which prepare them for adult life."

On the trail of 17 'extraordinary' Barry women

A SPECIAL trail marking the achievements of 17 extraordinary women has been launched in Barry.

The Barry Women's Trail was unveiled by Vale Council cabinet members Bronwen Brooks and Lis Burnett at the council's International Women's Day event at Barry Memorial Hall.

A booklet, available in council offices and libraries in the Vale, tells the story of each of the women and shows where to find the plaques which have been dedicated to them across the town.

They include composer Grace Williams, former mayor and council leader Coun Margaret Alexander, and social entrepreneur Lucy Dickenson, who founded international development charity the SAFE Foundation.

Lucy's twin sister Hannah, who still runs the charity, attended the launch of the trail with her family. She said the location of her sister's plaque on The Knap, where they had celebrated their birthday every year was a special place, and all the family were so



proud of Lucy.

Leader of the Council, Coun Neil Moore, said: "International Women's Day celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past and present. So we are delighted to launch the Barry Women's Trail today in honour of these remarkable, inspirational women."

"I am particularly pleased that the Vale's former mayor and council leader, Coun Margaret Alexander, has been included in the trail with a memorial bench at Nell's Point on Barry Island. Coun Alexander, a friend and colleague, who sadly passed away last year, was someone passionately committed to achieving equality for women."



Fairtrade coffee morning



ABOVE: Coun Les Sword held a coffee morning to highlight Fairtrade, and the plight of people in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. Among those attending were Jane Hutt AM, Godfrey Knight, and Coun Rob Curtis.

The Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword hosted a Fairtrade Coffee Morning on behalf of Barry Town Council on Friday, March 8.

The morning was to highlight the issue of Fairtrade and was in aid of Compassion in

Jesus Name which seeks to release children in the Third World from poverty, and has helped earthquake and flood victims in Haiti.

A total of £160 was raised.

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT LLANTWIT MAJOR COMPREHENSIVE

Pupils take a scientific approach!

YEAR-5 pupils from Rhws Primary visited Llantwit Major Comprehensive school as part of their science activities during the National Science and Engineering week.

They enjoyed visiting the laboratory and using Bunsen burners with Mr Searle and Mr Jones. Sixth form pupils Jess Tidely, Tom Parker, Daniel Lewis and Jordan Boswell also helped to lead the lessons.

We look forward to seeing year-5 pupils from our six cluster primaries next week for the Ice bridge event that we host annually.

Year-11 health and social care girls have raised funds for Oxfam. They saved up their spare change over the past couple of months and managed to raise enough to provide a gift of water for 20 people.



News in and out of class from the Eagleswell Primary School

IT has been a very busy term at Eagleswell Primary School. The first half term was spent busily preparing for our eisteddfod. The pupils competed in various competitions, such as art, design and technology, handwriting, Welsh recitals and poetry. The bard for this year's eisteddfod was Morgan Edwards, who wrote a superb poem about castles. Thinking of others

WE have been busy selling chicks in aid of Velindre Hospital and a total of £200 has been raised so far.

Last Friday, as part of our Comic Relief Red Nose Day festivities, Eagleswell pupils came to school wearing something unusual. 'Onesies' seemed to be very popular! We sold 240 red noses and a total of £353.69 was raised from the sale and donations from pupils.

The day culminated in an assembly, taken by the headteacher, Mr Watkins. This was 'Eagleswell does the Harlem Shake'.

If you haven't seen it, then please check us out on YouTube, or on our website eagleswell.com/harlemshake.

There have been over 600 lessons in less than 48 hours. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are delighted to see themselves on screen.

Many thanks to Mrs Crowther and school council for the choice of concept.

Also to Matthew Gall, for the filming and editing of the Harlem Shake footage, and for uploading it onto the web.

ECO news

OUR Eco Eagles have been very

busy. We participated in the Vale's Christmas card recycling scheme and collected 3,193 cards.

We have also taken delivery of 30 hedgerow saplings, including holly, dog rose and hawthorn, courtesy of the Woodlands Trust.

These will be planted to enhance the habitats for birds and other wildlife.

Bird and bat boxes, made and donated by pupils, Joseph and Kristian Parry, have been put up and are already attracting hedge sparrows and other birds.

We are collecting empty two-litre clear plastic bottles in preparation for our summer term project – the construction of our pop bottle greenhouse. More news to follow.

Out and about

YEARS 3 and 4 pupils visited the Rhondda Heritage Park on March 6, as part of their work on the topic of Black Gold.

We had tried on two previous occasions, but these had to be cancelled due to the snow. The pupils travelled underground to experience what life must have been like for children working underground during the Victorian era.

They were also taken on a tour of the village of Trehafo, to see the first colliery and to the original tracks along which the coal drams were transported.

Pupils from years 5 and 6 took part in the Lord Mayor's charity spring showcase in St David's Hall on March 13.

They had a fantastic time performing at this prestigious venue. Thirty five pupils went as part of the Llantwit Major Cluster Choir. Who knows whether one or two of them may well be performing on this very stage in the future? **GR**

Who wants to build what and where in the area?

Mr Paul Anthony Drew – Ivy Cottage, Leckwith, Cardiff – Alterations and replacement of the existing driveway.

Mr Derek Hooper – 8 Llandaff Close, Penarth – Demolition of double garage and utility and erection of single storey side and front extensions, first floor side extension and rear dormer.

Mr Peter Draper – 3 West Farm Close, Ogmere By Sea – Garage extension to front elevation.

Mr ER and Mrs DL Jenkins – Land at Trehill, St Nicholas – Digging of a trench which is to contain the foundations, or part of the foundations, of a building.

Mr Carr – Tyddyn Castan, Dyffryn Crescent, Peterston Super Ely – Reduce longer limbs by three metres.

Mr Porter – 18 Pwll Y Min Crescent, Peterston Super Ely – Fell Horse Chestnut tree.

Mr Price – Ty Coed, Mill Lay Lane, Llantwit Major – Proposed extension above existing garage to extend first floor living space. Balcony to front elevation.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major – Double classroom extension to existing school.

Mr Kong – 41 Devon Avenue, Barry – Edwardian conservatory to rear.

Lloyds Banking Group –

Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, High Street, Cowbridge – Two internally illuminated Text Bands; one internally illuminated Projector; one internally illuminated Square; two non-illuminated aluminium nameplates; two non-illuminated, internally applied vinyls; five internally illuminated window light strips.

Mr Alan Hailey – 16 Laburnum Way, Dinas Powys – Reduce overhang of Oak tree to No 8 Chestnut Close and canopy by a maximum of 15 per cent.

Mr R Patterson – 128 South Road, Sully – Part two storey, part single storey rear extension.

Mr Stephen Kitch – Garage and yard, Salop Place, Penarth – Renewal of expired planning permission 2006/01052/FUL for two storey house.

Mr James Davies – Former City Inn, City, Nr Cowbridge – Landscaping works to the front garden, including the construction of a retaining wall to the southern elevation which returns along the eastern elevation of the site.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – Albert Road Primary School, Albert Road, Penarth – Repair/renovation, including demolition of chimney stack and replacement of five windows on main building; plus works to store block.

Mr and Mrs Marcus Howells – 3 Britten Road, Penarth – Single storey extension to bungalow to create addition-

al living space complete with utility room extension; existing vehicular access widened.

Mr and Mrs Adrian Barker – 162 Westbourne Road, Penarth – Single storey rear extension to form sun room.

Mrs Liane Cridland – Holly Cottage, 4, The Vines, Colwinston – Proposed chimney for wood burning stove.

Fitz Project Management – Three Horseshoes Inn, Moulton, Barry – Change of use from first floor dining area to four tourist rooms.

Fitz Project Management – Land at the rear of 2 Orchard Drive, Barry –

Storage building on existing yard to rear of 2 Orchard Drive, Barry.

Mr Richard and Sian Banks – The Tower, Tower Hill, Penarth – External renovations, ground floor extension and new vehicular entrance.

Mrs Annemarie Evans – Croft House, Peterston Super Ely – Proposed conservatory to front elevation (to replace existing).

Mr and Mrs P Cahill – 10, Pwll y Myn Crescent, Peterston Super Ely – Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

Dr Colin Smith – Harbours Edge, 38

Plas Taliesin, Portway Marine, Penarth – Replacement of an existing front elevation window at the property with a sliding aluminium patio door.

Miss J Leask – Tumacacori, Rectory Road, St Athan – Erect rear single storey extension.

Mr G and Mrs A ap-Sion – 13c, Albert Crescent, Penarth – Removal of Ash tree.

Mr Nigel Esterkin – 37-39 Holton Road, Barry – Change of use of upper floors from offices to four self-contained residential flats.

Cyclist hopes to put Brake on road toll

A 62-year-old man is urging local people to support him on a daring cycle tour across Britain, to raise vital funds for a road safety campaign.

Graham Brain, of Llanarfan, will be embarking on a 1,500 mile cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End on May 20 calling at 11 extreme geographical points along the way.

He will be cycling for around 50 miles every day over 35 days in aid of Brake, the road safety charity.

Graham is looking for keen volunteers to hop on their bikes and join him on all or part of the

tour, or to help the cause by sponsoring this ambitious challenge.

Every day, five people die in collisions on Great Britain's roads, and Graham is hoping that his challenge will not only raise money but will also raise awareness about the importance of road safety.

Graham said: "When you consider the shocking number of people that are killed and injured on our roads, we need to do as much as we can to reduce casualties."

"I'm hoping that this challenge will help to raise the profile of road safety and the excellent work carried out by Brake."

"It is going to be tough, but this important cause and the support of fellow cyclists and sponsors, will help to get me through."

Brake is an independent road safety charity which exists to reduce deaths and injuries on our roads and to provide support for families bereaved and seriously injured in road crashes.

To find out more about Graham's cycle challenge, go to www.gbextremetour.co.uk or to contact Graham to get involved call 07873 225744; to sponsor Graham go to www.justgiving.com/GBExtremeTour2013.

Patriotic pupils celebrate saint's day in style



ABOVE and BELOW: Pupils are all dressed by for their St David's Day eisteddfod.



ABOVE: Llanearfan pupils get dressed up for World Book Day.



Storytime on World Book Day.



LLANEARFAN Primary School celebrated St David's Day by showcasing pupil's talents from literature and art to music and dance.

Pupils and staff made this another fantastic eisteddfod for the school, with a special mention for this year's Bard of Llanearfan, Rebecca Rees, year-6. "This is my first eisteddfod at Llanearfan," said headteacher, Colin Smith, "and I have been incredibly impressed by the pupils and staff who have put together such a spectacular celebration."

For Llanearfan Primary, one of the Vale's top performing schools, this year's eisteddfod also marks a

celebration of a different kind as the school secures its future, safe from closure.

Talent shines through
LLANEARFAN Primary recently celebrated the achievements of 21 talented young writers who will all have stories published in a book called *Around The World In 80 Words*.

Pupils wrote short stories on a theme that inspired them, with the added challenge of using 80 words or fewer!

From a tremendous amount of entries, stories were selected based on imagination, perception, expression and creative use of language to be published in *Around The World In 80 Words* –

Scotland and Wales in May.

Copies of the A5 soft-back publication will be available for the lucky pupils and their families with copies being sent to schools and libraries across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

"I am delighted to see so many of our pupil's stories being selected to feature in this publications," said headteacher, Colin Smith.

"One of Llanearfan Primary's many strengths is literacy and we welcome any initiative such as this which inspires children of all ages to write creatively."

World Book Day

PUPILS and teachers at Llanearfan Primary celebrated World Book Day on March 7 by dressing as characters from their favourite books.

Pupils' imaginations ran wild, with characters such as Horrid Henry and James Bond, Gulliver and The Gruffalo coming to school for the day!

Llanearfan pupils enjoyed sharing their favourite books with their class-mates to celebrate the magic of reading.

World Book Day is the biggest celebration of its kind, with millions of book vouchers being given out to children across the world.

Welsh NHS responsible to Cardiff – not London!

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, again writes in The GEM attacking the Welsh NHS. He says he will be arranging a meeting in Llantwit Major to discuss the future of the accident and emergency department at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend and plan responses to the public consultation on the health board's plans.

I would remind Mr Cairns that the Welsh NHS is the responsibility of the Assembly Government, elected by the Welsh people and that it's

nothing to do with any Westminster MPs. People should not contact Mr Cairns asking for help with anything to do with the Welsh NHS or Welsh education policy.

If they do, he should be honest and tell them he is unable to help and advise them to contact their elected Assembly member.

Remember this, Mr Cairns, if the people of Wales are not satisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of our NHS or education policy, then come the next Assembly elections, we can vote them out of office.

G Smith, Llantwit Major.

What's on, and where and when?

Mayor's coffee

THE Vale Mayor, Coun Eric Hacker, is holding a coffee morning in aid of Age Cymru, at the Civic Office in Barry between 10.30 am and 12 noon on March 26. Tickets are £1.50 each.

Tenovus Friends

BARRY Friends of Tenovus are holding an Easter coffee morning on March 27 at Romilly Bowls Pavilion in Romilly Park, Barry, from 10am-12 noon. £2 entrance. All welcome.

Contact 01446 408420.

Coffee Shop Strollers
VALEWAYS' Coffee Shop Strollers are launching a

new group in Rhose on Thursday, March 28 (meet at Rhose Station car park at 10.30 am).

Also make a date in your diary for the fourth annual Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival: May 31 – June 2.

Visit the website www.valeways.org.uk or email at info@valeways.org.uk.

Easter services

TO mark Palm Sunday, All Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be holding a family service at 10am, including a procession around the church grounds.

There will be a children's service at 10am on Good

Friday, with devotions from 12pm-3pm.

Easter Vigil Service, 7 pm on Easter Saturday; Holy Communion at 8am on Easter Sunday, with a family celebration service at 10am.

Easter Communion service, St Peter's, Old Cogan, at 3.30pm on Easter Sunday.

Gymanfa Ganu

The *Gymanfa Ganu*, normally held in Babell Chapel, Groesfaen will now take place on a date to be announced in June at Hope Peniel, Pontyclun, instead of at the usual Good Friday Service.

A fantastic day for Welsh rugby!



• Jubilant scenes from Wales' back-to-back championship victory, captured by the Huw Evans Agency. (See back page)



Barry distance race fights off the cold conditions

THE stagnant high pressure area which had centred over the UK all week, meant one thing – it was going to be another very cold day for the 27th edition of the Barry 40 mile track race.

In addition, recent days had seen moderate easterly winds indicating significant wind chill. Fortunately, these significantly abated for the big day, which suggested good running weather but a long tough day for the officials and supporters.

18 of the 21 entrants showed up and toed the line, and on paper the quality looked very high. The unfortunate cancellation of the Gloucester marathon/50 km meant that the Barry race assumed added importance, as it had become the only trial race for aspirants for international ultra selection for 2013.

Last year's runaway winner, Grant Jeans from Glasgow, had returned to defend his title, but the likely race favourite was Belgian Pieter Vermeesch, whose 2:19:45 marathon clocking from London 2011 meant he was significantly faster than anyone else. The fact that he had also been four times the Belgian 100 km champion meant that in theory he had both the speed and endurance to win the race comfortably.

Both Jeans and Vermeesch had experienced lengthy lay-off through injury during 2012, meaning that should either falter, twice Barry 40 runner-up Paul Fernandez could go one

better and win. In the ladies race, the late decision of last year's winner Heather Foundling-Hawker not to race meant that Karen Rushton, runner-up in 2011, was a strong favourite to win.

The first lap was sensational, as Grant Jeans, as per last year, flew round the track in just 81 seconds, tracked by Pieter Vermeesch. If this was a sign of things to come, then fireworks were expected!

The initial burst subsided, however, and the leaders settled into a steady rhythm of just outside six minute miling. Early strategies were quickly established, some runners choosing their own pace, others preferring a few words and some convivial company. The white attire of Jeans and black of Vermeesch made for an interesting visual contrast, but there was nothing to choose between them at five miles, clocked in 30:31, with Jeans always a stride ahead. Fernandez was also looking good as he passed in 31:13, just 42 seconds adrift.

Jeremy Mower lay fourth in 34:43, thereby leading the Welsh Championship, and Karen Rushton, running virtually identical pace to her performance in 2011, lay seventh in 36:22.

Jeans and Vermeesch circled the track for 40 laps, almost as Siamese twins, before Grant stopped for a drink. With the link broken, Pieter accepted the challenge to take the initiative, and began to move away. The respective 10 mile times were 62:09 for Vermeesch

and 62:15 for Jeans; Paul Fernandez was now exactly one lap behind in 63:41, with Jeremy Mower still fourth in 70:06.

Barrie Jones, a newcomer to the Barry 40, was certainly making an impressive debut as he came through next in 71:34, followed by Karen Rushton and Rasmivan Collinson, both moving easily and keeping each other company in 73:24.

Of the other ladies, Maria Zubizarreta, champion in 2009, came next in 80:33, followed by Natasha Doyle 85:28, Jeni Richards 88:29 and Molly Melhuish 1:54:20. All 18 runners were still moving well.

The pace at the sharp end seemed effortless and was remorseless. It was well known that Vermeesch was the class act on paper, and he was proving it. His second 10 miles was a virtual carbon copy of the first, and he passed halfway in 2:04:36.

Grant Jeans was slowing a little but still looking good as he passed in 2:07:10, and Paul Fernandez was now starting to get a little closer, though still third, in 2:09:08. It was common knowledge that these three were likely to be the main protagonists, and so it was proving.

Jeremy Mower was still fourth in 2:23:25, but was slowly being reeled in by Barrie Jones (2:23:50), and this mini-battle for a time became a focus for attention. At just 29, Jones was by 18 years the younger, and youth versus experience battles are always fascinating when

played out over an extended period.

Karen Rushton was now clearly established in sixth place on 2:27:34, with the rest of the ladies' timings Zubizarreta 2:34:31, Doyle 2:56:11 and Richards 2:58:36.

The leaden skies had cleared somewhat, and the temperature had crawled up to four degrees.

Unfortunately, the north-easterly wind had freshened a little, though never got above 12 mph. Reasonable for running, perishing for watching. The Barry 40 is well-known as being an endurance test for everyone, and it was certainly living up to its reputation.

Not that the weather was bothering Pieter Vermeesch, far from it. By lap 90 he had caught and passed Grant Jeans for the second time, and by now also led Paul Fernandez by three laps. For a few hundred metres the three leaders were together, and one was able to get a visual impression of their relative strength.

While Vermeesch was still looking absolutely imperious, Fernandez was moving almost equally well, and it appeared that Jeans was slipping back. Each subsequent lap seemed to confirm this position.

Such was the standard of the race that all 18 runners were still moving well with three hours approaching. Sadly, that all changed. It was well known that Grant Jeans had experienced back problems since his win last year, and increasingly his discomfort was becoming

apparent. His pace was beginning to slow accordingly. It was a brave defence of his title, but with almost 14 miles still to run, there was only one sensible option. Around this time Maria Zubizarreta also withdrew, having declared her intentions before the start to only run 23 miles.

Meanwhile, the pace up front was unrelenting. Pieter Vermeesch's third 10 mile split was his fastest of the race so far, 61:41, and he was looking supremely comfortable and confident. His 30 mile time of 3:06:17 meant that he now had a lead of 6:43 over Paul Fernandez, who was still moving very smoothly and surviving significantly better than on either of his two previous visits.

The battle between Jeremy Mower and Barrie Jones, which was now for third place, had also taken an interesting turn during the third ten miles. Jones had caught his man on Lap 85, and by 30 miles held a precarious lead of 20 seconds, 3:38:00 to 3:38:20.

In the ladies race, Karen Rushton had consolidated on her fifth position, and was now unstoppable as she clocked 3:44:17. The battle for the ladies minor places, which was now also for the Welsh title, was intriguingly poised between Natasha Doyle, on 4:28:40, with Jeni Richards now just 55 seconds behind on 4:29:35.

Beyond 30 miles Pieter Vermeesch continued to show his class. For a time his lap times indicated that he was operating inside six

minute miling, and his advantage opened up to seven laps. But Paul Fernandez was fighting hard too, and in the closing miles was actually the fastest runner on the track.

The pace judgment of both athletes was quite remarkable in that both ran "negative splits" i.e. second half faster than the first – particularly impressive over so arduous a distance. It was Pieter Vermeesch's first ultra track race, although he has extensive experience on the road. His winning time of 4:08:59 was enough to rank him 29th fastest in the world all-time, and it was the fastest Barry 40 since 2004; and yet, given that it was his first ultra for 18 months after an extended lay-off, there is clearly the potential for much more.

Paul Fernandez also showed enormous improvement over his previous attempts at this race, and his time of 4:19:13 was a 12 minute personal best.

Jeremy Mower's third place in 4:56:02 was also a seven minute personal record, and beating the significant landmark of five hours for the first time. He also regained the Welsh title that he last won in 2009. Barrie Jones gave a great account of himself on his debut in fourth, and his time of 5:00:50 will surely only serve as a spur to beat the five hour mark next year.

Karen Rushton had another magnificent run to claim the ladies title. She was five minutes down on her 2011 run here, but it was still a wonderful effort. Behind

her, Natasha Doyle just managed to hold off Jeni Richards for second (and the destiny of the Welsh title), 6:04:51 to 6:08:09.

At the race presentation, there was a nostalgic moment. In 1995, the then-chairman of the Leisure Services Committee, Neil Brown, presented the prizes, and two of the individual prize winners that day, Robin Gardner (the race winner, who won the over 50 title this time) and James Zarei, were in action again.

The penultimate runner to finish was Alan Mann, who has run every Barry 40 since 2003, and has only failed to finish once, but the biggest cheer was reserved for the final runner. Two decades ago, James Zarei was amongst the finest exponents in the world of six day races, and twice won the 2500 km Spartathlon in Greece.

He hadn't raced in Barry since 2000, and hadn't raced at all for nearly as long. Aged 69, he turned back the years to finish really strong in 6:30:13 and immediately pledged to return next year. It was a truly emotional moment.

A fantastic team effort, not only by the runners, but also by all the officials, thanks to Gary and Pip Hyatt yet again for the refreshments, and to the groundstaff Mike Dodd and Nick Collins. Everyone wanted to be somewhere warmer, but everyone also had a warm glow after witnessing yet another titanic show of endurance at the Barry 40. **MM**

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Senior rugby 7s team shines in tournament



THE school senior rugby 7s squad were outstanding at the recent Llandovery College 7s tournament.

Once again the school were the highest placed Welsh finishers as they reached the final of the main competition where they lost to Millfield.

Cowbridge took a strong squad of 14 players to the tournament and the boys started the first game well with a comfortable 37-7 win over Cymer Comprehensive.

Captain Gus Rees McPherson was outstanding throughout the tournament and led by example from the very first game.

Harry Dowell Bennett has really developed his game over the last few months and he put in some outstanding performances in the group games.

Chris Brace, Charlie Morris and Freddie Harries were also outstanding and special mention must go to Harry Thomas who was potentially the most talented player throughout the whole tournament.

Next up for the school was another strong opponent in the shape of Tregib from Llandeilo.

The Cowbridge boys turned on the style to win the game by 36 points to 10. As the school finished group winners they moved into the knockout stage and secured quality victories over Radyr, Llandovery College and Coleg Gwent respectively.

With only two Welsh teams qualifying for the cup semi-finals, Cowbridge were drawn against Gwyr school who were Welsh runners up at last year's national competition.

After a tense first half, Cowbridge turned on the class to open up a lead that Gwyr could not close. Cowbridge moved into the final.

The final itself proved to be a game too far and key injuries sustained during the semi final meant that Cowbridge took the field with two year 11 pupils and three front row players.

Despite a valiant effort, Millfield cruised



Kate Workman.

to a comfortable victory and were deserved winners. However, the school can once again be extremely proud of the fact that they once again reached the final of a top quality tournament that was full of quality teams from England and Wales respectively.

As a result of several individual performances on the day, Cowbridge have had four players who have been identified and invited to attend a Welsh 7s training camp in the Easter holidays.

Congratulations and good luck to Charley Morris, Chris Brace, Freddie Harries and Harry Thomas.

HOCKEY

Cowbridge hosted the Year 7 hockey tournament on March 12, playing Corpus Christi and Radyr.

We played Corpus Christi first; Cowbridge started very well with all the early possession and territory, the girls defended strongly and Corpus failed to make any attempts at goal.

Ffion McNamee and Mali Howell worked brilliantly in attack and scored two points, leaving the score 2-0 to Cowbridge.

During the second game against Radyr, Cowbridge dominated again with the majority of possession and a number of attempts at goal.

Despite Radyr's best efforts they couldn't get past our strong defending team and failed to make any attempts at goal.

The girls played really well, intercepting and marking tightly, the attacking players again worked brilliantly together scoring three points between them, leaving the final score

3-0 to Cowbridge.

An outstanding effort from the whole team and we are now through to the next stage of the Year 7 hockey tournament - well done.

Player of the match: Mali Howell, scoring three points for Cowbridge; excellent.

NETBALL

The year 7 girls played in the county final on March 11; they played three matches in the pool against Glantaf, Corpus Christi and Cathedral.

In the first game we played Glantaf who got off to a good start, quickly scoring three goals; our defence of Sarah Jones and Ellen Swallow worked hard in the circle. The score at half time was 5-2 to Glantaf.

In the second half we looked much sharper, with quick passes from Meriel Clode and Megan Hodgson into our goal shooter and goal attack, Sophie Rees and Jordan Meek.

We fought our way back to 5-5 thanks to excellent shooting and good interceptions from Tiorion Evans and Emily Jenkins. Glantaf came back and scored a goal right on the final whistle for a final score of 5-6 to Glantaf.

In our second match we played Corpus Christi; we knew it would be a close match and we tightened up our passes and took an early lead in the first half (2-0) then Corpus came back and the score at half time was 2-2.

This reflected the evenly matched teams - we had to work very hard to keep possession as they interception was very good.

The second half saw us matching Corpus goal for goal and in a hard fought evenly matched game it was a fair final score of 6-6 at full time.

Our final game was against Cathedral; they had just won their game against Corpus Christi 8-0 so we knew it would be a tough match.

In the first half we held possession taking an early 2-0 lead but then Cathedral found their form and came back with two goals taking the score to 2-2 at half time.

The second half was harder and Cathedral



Senior 7s squad.

scored four more goals to our two so the final score was 6-4 to Cathedral.

The year 7 tournament was won by Glantaf who won all their matches; we came third in the county. The girls should be very proud of the way they played, pushing all their opponents to close games and learning from the experience.

BASKETBALL

Sam Roberts in year 13 and the Vale team won the Welsh 3 x 3 Championships last week in front of a packed arena in Rhondda Fach, the home of Welsh basketball.

The team beat Swansea in the final 10-5 with Sam scoring 8 points and collecting the man of the match award.

The team won all six matches played, scoring 82 points and conceding just 29 with Sam scoring 47 of their points.

Also, keeping it in the family, younger brother Matt Roberts has also been selected for the Welsh under-16s to travel to the European championships between June 30 and July 8 in Gibraltar.

Congratulations and good luck to both boys.

SQUASH

Kate Workman, a year 7 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, will represent Wales in the under-13 5 Nations mixed team championship in Le Mans, France in March.

There will be squash matches against England, Ireland, Scotland and France.

Kate started her squash career when attending Pontyclun Primary School becoming under-11 national champion.

She now trains at Cowbridge after School Squash Club. Kate prepared for the internationals by competing in the French Junior Open in Lille, winning two of her matches.

Barry under-12s' new kit proves the difference!



THE sun was shining upon Barry RFC under-12s on Sunday, when the first use of their new kit, sponsored by Steve Jones Installations, galvanised them to win their game against St Josephs RFC under-12s.

In the first half Barry's passing showed improvement which allowed Cam to score two tries within the first 15 minutes.

St Joseph's then broke through Barry's defence to score a try, bringing the score to 10-7. Barry then gained possession and were able to score a try, which was converted by Ewan; the score at the end of the first half was 17-7.

At the start of the second half St Josephs showed grit and determination, scoring a try to bring the score to 17-17.

Barry were able to turn over the ball and took advantage of scrappy defence to score a try to make it 22-17. This left St Josephs reeling and Barry were able to score under the posts, which enabled Ewan to convert the try to make it 29-17.

Barry then allowed St Josephs the room to score an unconverted try, but mucky scrapping for the ball five minutes from full time resulted in Cam scoring a try, expertly converted by Ewan, for a full time score of 36-22.

Thank you to Steve Jones Installations for sponsoring our new kit and thank you to Darren for agreeing to referee the game.

Barry RFC under-12s are looking for new members; for more information please contact Sara on 07983576711.

SB

Liam and Jenson shine



ON Sunday, March 17, in Halesowen, Birmingham, a points fight night took place.

Liam Rees (15), a pupil at St Richard Gwyn High School, attended along with his younger brother Jenson (7), who attends St Helens Infant School.

Jenson was first to fight and he fought hard, winning the fight by an

impressive 14-4! Later on in the evening it was Liam's turn to shine. Liam dominated the 2 x 2 minute round fight with an impressive use of kick-boxing moves.

Liam has recently been selected to fight as part of Team W.O.M.A.A elite in the 'Battle of the Celts' in Cornwall in April.

Good luck for this event, Liam, from all

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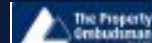
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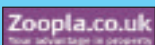
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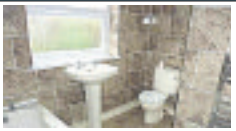
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• Ground floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Communal gardens
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H4U Reference 216057
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
• no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
• Ground floor (steps)
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Garden
Rent £80.84 per week including water charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 1039595
Suit for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need) Re-advertisement
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• Ground floor
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H4U Reference 216932
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H4U Reference 245442
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• Second floor
• Central heating
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• Communal gardens
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TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 226525
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• no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
• Ground floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
Rent £78.37 per week including water charges

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them.

There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

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Family Notices

GWILLIAM Raymond Charles

Peacefully with great courage on March 6th at the
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Ray, aged 82
years. Devoted husband of the late Sheila, cherished
dad of Ann and Chris, also father-in-law to Dave,
Dearly loved gramp (Charlie) to Richard, Rachel,
Laura and Sarah. Loving great grandfather of
Georgia, Lorenzo, Joshua, Sofia and Jessica. Ray will
be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral
Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at
St Davids Methodist Church, Barry on Tuesday,
26th March at 2.45pm followed by cremation at
Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road
East, Barry. Family flowers only, donations if desired,
to the British Heart Foundation or Diabetes UK.
Funeral arrangements entrusted to Nicola Ellis,
telephone 01446 407962.

Carol Pope and family would like to
thank everyone who attended Mum's
funeral on Monday March 11.

Also, many thanks for all the lovely cards
and flowers that were sent.
Mum would have loved them.

Thanks to friends and family for all their
support; especially Nigel and family, without
whose support I couldn't have managed to get
through this.

God bless you all. X

GIBBARD

Alan

Marjorie, Karen, Marie and Richard would
like to thank everyone for the many cards
and messages of sympathy they have received
from neighbours and friends for their
support over the last two years.

Also our thanks to Dr Kavanagh, the District
Nurses, Marie Curie Cancer Care and
Reverend Phil Hibbert for a meaningful service.

We feel blessed to have known
so many kind people.

BAKER Derek

Margaret would like to thank relatives, friends and
neighbours for their messages of sympathy, floral
tributes and donations. Special thanks to the staff of
Ward E2 Llandough Hospital. Also, thanks to
W James & Sons and Reverend Malcolm Davies.

JAYNES Barbara May

Sadly on Sunday 10th March 2013 at Milsom
House Nursing Home, St Athan, Barbara a very
much loved wife of Tom passed away after a
long illness. God Bless Babs. You will always be
remembered and never forgotten.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &
Sons, Ffnonn. Funeral Tuesday March 26th, service
and cremation at 11.00am at Coychurch
Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request,
donations in lieu if desired to the Alzheimers Society
c/o J W James, 11 Ffnonn Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

ROSA KEELING

19th June 1912 - 17th March 2013

Died peacefully on Sunday night.
Cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park
on Wednesday, 27th March at 2.15pm.
Friends welcome at the cremation.
Family flowers only, please.
Donations if desired to
www.epilepsy.org.uk/involved/donations

BROWN Adrian Paul

Hilary and family wish to express their gratitude to
all who attended Adrian's funeral.

Thanks for the nursing care at the Princess of Wales
Hospital, also thank you to family, friends, neighbours
and work colleagues at Cardiff Council for their
support and help. The family are also grateful to Mr
Spencer, the head teacher, school governors, staff and
pupils of Queen Elizabeth High School, Carmarthen.

Also, thank you to the staff at Thomas Brothers
funeral services, St Brides Major and Reverend John
Garland for a personal and heartfelt service.

GOODALL Amelia Agnes

Amelia's daughter Patricia would like to thank, all
who attended the funeral service, for the many cards
and messages of support, and the donations kindly
sent for Ty Hafan.

Special thanks go to Reverend David Juliff for his
comforting service, to all the staff at Milsom House for
the wonderful care given to Amelia, and to Carole and
her colleagues at W A Brown & Son.

Newton John

Much loved and
missed.

Love always,
Shirley & Kim xxx

The GEM

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Anniversaries

COLLIER Karen & Michael



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Wedding
Anniversary
on March 26.

Lots of love, Mam & Dad. xxx

Weddings

Janice & John
Shapland
are pleased to announce
the marriage of their
daughter
Ceri to Gareth Toutt
on March 23rd 2013.
Wishing you both health & happiness.

Well done Mam & Dad
Love you lots Toby-Ray

Barry Bombettes grind out hard-fought victory

ON a bright sunny
afternoon, Barry
Bombettes eagerly
awaited their final
group Cup match
against Blaenau
Gwent at the
Reservoir Fields.

Following two
deserved victories and
with the knowledge that
a win would secure a
home quarter final tie,
Barry started the game
briskly; but several
missed tackles later
resulted in a Blaenau
breakaway score under
the posts against the run
of play.

This temporarily
knocked the home team
confidence and a few
minutes later, the tow-
ering Blaenau No 8
picked up from the back
of a scrum in the Barry
22 and powered her way
over for an unconverted try.

Barry started taking
control of the break-
down area, and then
Richards started her
mazy strong running.

Forcing the away side
backwards, centre Jones
spotted a gap and drove
into the Blaenau 22. She
wasn't to be thwarted
and with at least two
Blaenau defenders trying
to tackle her, she
powered over the line.
The conversion was
duly converted by
Richards. to make it 7-12.

Barry were well and
truly back in the game
and centre Jones again
managed to power over
for an equalising try.

Both teams battled
hard to regain the lead
as the second half began
and the game remained
tied until the final 15
minutes, with a Blaenau
infringement allowing
Richards to slot over a
penalty from the 22.

Thoughts of Barry
opening up a comfort-
able gap were dashed
almost immediately as
the away side showed

why they are in a league
above as they scored a
converted try to make it
15-19.

Again Barry refused
to lie down and
Williams picked up and
bulldozed her way
through to touch down;
the conversion was nar-
rowly missed.

A Blaenau Gwent
penalty bounced back
off the Barry upright
and Barry were then
subjected to immense
pressure right on their
own try line but the
final whistle blew for a
final score of 20-19

Team: Hill, O'Neill,
Britton, K Jones (c),
Rees, Bannister, Potter,
Cole, Yapp, Williams,
Garner-Joel, Boffy,
Cahill, Richards,
Horne. Replacements:
Phillips, Cushman,
Beare, Waller, Kronda,
B Jones.

Barry woman of the
match went to Jones and
Blaenau Gwent chose
Richards

The management
would like to congratu-
late the whole team for
a gutsy performance and
a well deserved third
group victory. Special
mention to our debutant
Kronda Potter on her
first start and the return-
ing Waller; thanks to
Rachel Baron for the
lovely food.

We are always look-
ing for new players, no
experience needed. We
train at the Barry RFC
clubhouse 7pm Tuesday
and Thursday at 7.45pm
at the Bryn Hafren
Astroturf pitch.

The next match is
the quarter final of the
Bowl/Shield against
Gorseionn this Sunday,
March 24, kick off
2.00pm; come up and
support your local team.

AM

Bridgend MP's support for Earth Hour

MADELEINE
MOON, the MP for
the Bridgend con-
stituency showed
her support for
energy powered by
nature, as part of
WWF's Earth
Hour 2013.

Members of
Parliament were asked
to put wind, wave, and
solar power symbols
on a UK weather map
to symbolise the need
for more renewable
energy - to help pro-

tect our planet.

She said:
"WWF's Earth
Hour is a simple idea
that brings together
millions of people
across the globe who
all care about one
thing - our planet.

"If we are serious
about shaping a better
future for generations
to come, then we need
to act now. I would
encourage everyone to
get involved and
switch their lights off
for an hour at 8.30pm
on March 23."

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Rhosee lifeguards are 'Masters' of the Welsh stillwater competition for second year running



FOLLOWING a successful weekend for the Nippers at the Welsh Stillwater Championships, it was the turn of the junior, senior and masters teams from Rhosee Lifeguards to compete.

Taking place over the weekend of March 2/3, at Wales National Pool, Swansea, all age groups took part in the annual competition which includes a number of

individual and relay races combining swimming and lifesaving techniques.

The Stillwaters marks the start of the Surf Life Saving calendar of events for the year and Rhosee got off to a very rewarding start led by team manager Lee Perry.

The day's races started with the junior team, managed by junior Co-ordinator Steve Baker. He and his team have worked very hard over the winter improving lifesaving and racing techniques and swim-

ming stamina. The Juniors' training paid off with the team achieving a very commendable fifth position against some tough competition.

Steve commented: "Well done on the efforts of all our juniors, some of whom competed for the first time in this competition."

"We are all very proud of how well you did over the two days."

The seniors team, comprising of Rhys and Simon Perry, achieved some very good times in the individual races and were aided in the relay races by members of the juniors and masters team.

Achieving a high overall position was always going to be difficult with a team of two competitors but both Rhys and Simon put in a great effort and finished in sixth place overall.

Rhys Perry also raced in the 50m sprint swim and achieved an excellent time of 26.10secs, coming sixth out of 49 swimmers.

Finally the masters team, captained by Simon Parker, were keen to match last year's first place success.

The team made up of 16 competitors (allowing for four relay teams) across all age groups;

over 30s, 40s and 50s put in a great effort to win the master's trophy for the second year running.

With some great individual and relay races the masters' 'team spirit' was on show throughout the two days.

Simon Parker congratulated all those in the team and particularly those competing for the first time.

Of the 17 clubs who competed at the Stillwaters, Rhosee, with the combined results of the juniors, seniors and masters teams, achieved an overall position of third place.

Rhosee team manager Lee Perry, junior co-ordinator Steve Baker and club captain Simon Parker, would like to thank all of the competitors from all age groups as well as the parents and supporters who helped with time-keeping and other duties over the course of the competition.

Thank you also to Elaine Edgerton for photographing the

events of the competition... Well done everybody and thanks for your continued support.

RESULTS

A list of the medal winners in individual events are as follows:

Junior team: Kelsea Peterson – Silver Manikin Carry with Fins, Bronze Manikin Carry with Fins, Bronze Manikin Tow with Fins, Ben Owen – Silver Manikin Tow with Fins

Masters team: Heddus Davies – Silver Rescue Medley, Jon Foster – Bronze Manikin Carry, Silver Manikin Carry with Fins, Bronze Manikin Tow with Fins, Silver Rescue Medley, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris – Gold Manikin Carry, Gold Manikin Carry with Fins, Silver Manikin Tow with Fins, Sian Frith – Bronze Manikin Carry, Bronze Manikin Carry with Fins, Bronze Manikin Tow with Fins, Gold Rescue Medley, Jon Martlew – Gold Manikin Tow with Fins, John Arnold – Bronze

Manikin Carry, Bronze Rescue Medley, Steve Baker – Bronze Manikin Carry with Fins, Simon Parker – Silver Manikin Carry with Fins, Janine Cordy – Gold Manikin Carry with Fins.

Many more medals were won in the pairs and team relay events; teams:

Junior team: Lauren Blake, Kathryn Gardner, Kirby Redrup, Sara Philips, Kelsea Peterson, Ben Owen, William Parker, Finn Rees, Sam Broughton, Alex Perry, Emily Baker, Ruby Redrup, Georgia Wall, Tayla Edgerton, Laura Braggins, Ellie Peterson.

Senior team: Rhys Perry, Simon Perry.

Masters team: Heddus Davies, Jon Foster, Jon Martlew, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Frith, Sarah Bryant, Sue Blake, Michele Wall, John Arnold, Steve Baker, Simon Parker, Andy Wall, Janine Cordy, Melissa Downton, Paul Gardner, Jason Redrup.



Lions' curry and quiz night a success

BARRY AND PENARTH Lions Club recently hosted a 'curry and quiz' night at the St. Andrews Major Golf club.

More than 60 guests took part, and enjoyed chef Gareth's amazing array of delicious curries.

£350 was raised, some of which was from the raffle and the contestants attempting to correctly answer the 'Spot Question' on how many species of sharks there were!

Everyone had a most enjoyable evening, and the money raised will all go to local causes.

Barry & Penarth Lions Club is always happy to welcome new members and supporters.

Anyone wishing to obtain more information about the club or the Lions organisation can phone Barry & Penarth president Jude Warren on 0845 833 6742 or 07913296879. JW

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your news, views and sports reports - email them to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Plenty of power, but too cramped for the family

THE legendary Golf GTi often seems to be the benchmark for other hot hatch manufacturers to follow.

Rarely do any surpass the high standard set by the German manufacturer; but, pleasingly, there might just be a challenger in the form of the Mazda 3.

We're not talking about the standard model, though, but the MPS, which boasts a 2.3-litre turbo 260bhp engine and rockets from 0 to 60mph in an eye-watering 6.1 seconds.

We'd better discuss the difference between PS and BHP: PS or Pferdestärke is German for horse strength and most of us know that BHP is Brake Horse Power.

PS is a slightly higher figure than BHP, but there's not much in it. Stick an M in front of the PS, perhaps for major or mighty, and you have the Mazda 3 MPS.

It's got the where-withal to leave a Golf GTi at the traffic lights. You have to be careful, though, because it is front wheel drive and while pushing this phenomenal amount of power through those front wheels can be a great source of fun, it can also be quite lethal, especially when the roads are wet.

Suffice to say, that during my commute on a dreary winter's day, I was unable to push the accelerator all the way to

Motoring with Tim Saunders



ABOVE: The Mazda 3.

the floor, much as I wanted to, otherwise I would have lost control.

As per usual, morning rush hours are incredibly frustrating, with even more motorists when it rains. It's one of those days when every traffic light turns to red.

I take a scenic back route and join the motorway at as late a junction as possible in an attempt to avoid the typical snarl ups and accidents.

We crawl on to the side road joining the motorway and then thankfully there's a gap in the monotony.

No sooner have I seen it and carefully pushed the accelerator than we're there, with the equivalent effortless stealth of a cheetah.

Why is it that so many drivers insist on hogging the outside lane when the other two are faster flowing? It's very frustrating but eventually the driver in front gets the message.

And so they should, the aggressively styled MPS has a bulbous air vent in the bonnet, even making the driver of a Porsche, I spy, wary. The six-speed gearbox is a joy, being stiff and deci-

sive, just how it should be.

I used to own a Mazda Xedos 6, 2-litre V6 and bitterly miss the style and handling of that car. But the MPS easily matches it and brings a smile to the face just as that used to, and the ride is hard and sporty, too.

It's a real joy. The front electrically heated leather bucket seats are comfy and it has a useful cruise control. The Bose sound system and electrically folding wing mirrors are a distinct advantage.

A criticism that I have always had of Mazdas as a whole, is the poor use of interior space. Consider the size of the Mazda 3 and it is disappointing that conditions are nothing short of cramped inside as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz.

The reason for this is that the dashboard takes up a considerable chunk of room and if this was cut back, space in the front would be improved.

The second reason is that the boot is really pretty large and an inch or two could be lost here without anyone batting an eyelid. This would give rear passengers more space.

It's not unreasonable for the driver of this car to want to transport two children in their car seats, in this case Harriett (two) and Heidi (one week).

Harriett has a comfortable but cumbersome front facing Cosatto car seat while Heidi has a rear facing Britax. Harriett, especially, needs her legroom, otherwise wife Caroline is kicked in the back.

All of this results in Caroline and I having our seats pushed forward to an uncomfortable degree.

It's not so bad for me but for Caroline, who has to contend with the intrusion of the dashboard, it's not the best experience.

So, performance aside, when compared to the Golf GTi, the 3 MPS does not score as highly simply because of the poor use of interior space. With the best will in the world it's not one for the family.

OTR from: £23,995
0 to 60mph: 6.1secs
Top speed: 155mph
Economy: 30mpg
Road tax: £600

Rhoose Nippers start competition season with a personal best



The girls' board relay team



ABOVE: The boys' relay team

ON Sunday, February 24, the Nippers from Rhoose Lifeguards Club took part in the Welsh Stillwater competition in the Wales International Pool, Swansea.

Rhoose Nippers made an excellent start to 2013 by coming second overall. The nippers have achieved third and fourth position in recent years, so reaching second place was a great result for the children and nipper coordinator Liz Wong.

Liz congratulated the nippers, coaches and parents by saying: "A massive well done to all of our nippers who competed. You are a credit to the club. Thank you also to Michael Goode, who is becoming a regular nipper photographer, for capturing the events of the day."

For first timers, the Stillwaters can be quite a challenge and the club would like to congratulate Gwanno Goode, Lena Davies, Elena

bronze board race; Emily Parker – silver flipper race, silver manikin carry; Cian Davies – silver board race; Oliver Wong – bronze flipper race, bronze manikin carry, gold board race; Jessica Wadey – gold flipper race, silver manikin carry, silver board race; Elle Peterson – bronze manikin carry.

Many more medals were won in the team relay events: Nipper team: Gwanno Goode, Lena Davies, Elena Gibson, Benedict Griffin, Cai Beasley, Moli Lyons, Eloise Strange, Ella Bulmer, Louie Gwatkin, Jai Gerrish, Helen Jenkins and Dyfan Goode on their first pool competition.

Cai Beasley
Gibson, Benedict Griffin, Cai Beasley, Moli Lyons, Eloise Strange, Ella Bulmer, Louie Gwatkin, Jai Gerrish, Helen Jenkins and Dyfan Goode on their first pool competition. A list of the medal winners in individual events are as follows: Cai Beasley – bronze flipper race, bronze manikin carry, bronze board race; Lena Davies – bronze manikin carry, bronze board race; Gwanno Goode – silver board race; Evie Wong – silver flipper race, bronze manikin carry, Lena Davies, Elena



Louie Gwatkin and Jai Gerrish



Elle Peterson and Ruby Redrup



Lena Davies and Gwanno Goode



Keira Harris and Yasmin Davies

A lot can happen in seven days...

WHAT a difference seven days can make.

The Gambits travelled to play the Cardiff Cavaliers and recorded a 3-2 victory; seven days later the Quarks travelled to play the Cardiff Cavaliers and duly lost 3-2.

What is even more galling is that the Quarks had a stronger team than the Gambits and the Cavaliers had a weaker team against the Quarks than they put out against the Gambits.

Even more disconcerting was that two of our players played in both matches. For the Gambits Dave Mahoney and Phil Jones both recorded wins.

Seven days later both players were on lower boards and had colours reversed but actually took on the same opponents as in the previous match. This time however they were only able to record a half point for a draw between them.

The Gambits then had a home match against the

team immediately above them, Pontypridd Phoenix, and could only muster 1 1/2 points from five boards.

This leaves them stranded five points from safety with only three games to go. Relegation for the Gambits seems inevitable.

In division 1 the Bosons had a good victory over Caerphilly Kings and remain in third place.

With only three games left to play the Bosons seem likely to finish in fourth place but are capable of turning in good performances and third place is still a possible finish - this would not have seemed likely a few weeks ago.

For more details visit our website: barychessclub.yolasite.com.

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7:30pm; new players of all ages and standards are welcomed. PJ

Bowlers shine in north Wales

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Bowling Club have just returned from a successful trip to Bodolwyddan Castle, north Wales.

Three teams reached the quarter-final stage, with Gerwyn Watkins, Sue Flower, John and May Jones sadly losing to a team from north Devon.

Our other two teams had to play

against each other and ended with Janet Morton, Dorothy and Clive Pritchard and Guy Morton (skip) losing to Terry and Shirley Dunsforth, and Ron and Joy Woolford (skip), who then reached the championship final.

Joy and her team played an exciting final, well supported by all of our members, and went on to win the championship by 11 shots to 9.

Many thanks to Sue Flower for arranging another enjoyable bowls holiday.

The outdoor season starts on the April 1, and the ladies' first game with new captain Lynda Wilson will be a mixed match at home to Penarth. The men, under new captain Guy Morton, play Gelligaied at home; here's to a sunny and successful season!

NJW

BARRY NETBALL CLUB LOOK THE PART!



Aberthaw Power Station Production Manager Andy Harrison presents the Barry Netball Club Dragon squad with their new kit watched by coach Sarah Thomas (right) and assistant coach Georgia Hewitson (left).

YOUTH players of Barry Netball Club are looking very smart, thanks to a donation from Aberthaw Power Station.

Production manager Andy Harrison took along a donation that has enabled the players - ranging from 7 to 11 years old - to have their very own kit.

"We are very keen to support youngsters who are involved in sports clubs in the area," said Andy. "The team look very smart and I hope they are inspired

when they play their monthly matches."

"They normally play in their own clothes so this really helps bring them together as a team," said Dragons coach Sarah Thomas.

"We are a big club and it all starts with the Dragons who train weekly and play in the Cardiff & Vale Junior League once a month."

Anyone who is interested in joining the netball club can contact Julia Hewitson on 07980 529470.

Rhoose FC reach final of South Wales FA Senior Cup

RHOOSE FC have reached the final of the South Wales FA Senior Cup for the second time in four seasons (they won the trophy in 2009/10) following a hard fought and uncompromising win over local rivals Sully Sports FC at Sully's Swanbridge ground on Saturday.

The match was ultimately decided by a

penalty shoot out following a 5-5 stalemate after normal time and extra time. The majority of the second half was played in a freak hailstorm which made it extremely difficult for both sides - and in consequence it's fair to say turned the game into a bit of a farce at times.

The Rhoose goals (in normal time) came from Calvin McLaggon, Nicky Davison, Drew Fahiya (2) and Marcus Madder.

Rhoose FC will play

Cardiff side STM Sports in the final, to be played at Port Talbot Town's GenQuip Stadium on Friday, May 10 (kick-off time TBC). STM Sports defeated Penydarren BGC 3-1 at Treforest in the other semi-final.

Rhoose FC: Matthew Davey, Oliver Dalton, Matthew Philips; Jon Carpenter; Craig Green; Nicky Davison; Liam Jones; Joseph Hinds, Calvin McLaggon, Nicky Davison, Drew Fahiya, James Dixon; Joshua Reffell; Marcus Madder; Sion Anstee; Christian Baldock, Barry Niblett, Rhodri Foote and David Stephenson; coaches: Paul Giles and Steve Hill. **AP**

St Cyres basketball team to represent south Wales in final

THE St. Cyres girls under-14 basketball team played in the South Wales basketball tournament at Rhondda Fach leisure centre.

They faced Cwm Rhymney who they narrowly beat last year in their first game. As expected the game was a very close affair.

St. Cyres led throughout with baskets from Carys Allen and Millie Baston but Cwm Rhymney always threatened to score. St. Cyres were leading 7-6 with 20 seconds to go. Cwm Rhymney then had a last attempt on goal but failed, much to the relief of St. Cyres.

The next group game was against Stanwell B team. St. Cyres got off to a flying start; Bethan Salter had an early chance. Carys then scored followed by Millie Baston, Morgan Dursley and Molly Owen-Ffoulkes.

Evie Brown, Chloe Whitty, Callie Purser and Gabby Dattero-Snell all played their part in a superb team performance with St. Cyres 16-2 winners.

St. Cyres qualified for



The successful St Cyres basketball team.

the semi-finals as winners of their group. They had to play Stanwell A, a team who were runners up in their group.

Stanwell took an early four point lead. Carys then played superbly well with some outstanding defensive work from Evie Brown to level the score. St. Cyres then took the lead.

It remained very tight until the end but St.

Cyres managed to hang on to their two point lead until the final whistle to win 10-8. St. Cyres now go on to represent south Wales in the Welsh Schools finals.

Well done to all the St. Cyres girls who played. They were a credit to the school. A big thank you to the organisers and the Cwm Rhymney and Stanwell teams for some great matches. **SB**

John to train future Special Olympians

AFTER the success of the London Olympic Games last year, all eyes are now focused on Brazil in 2016 where golf will be on the curriculum for the very first time.

However in only two years time another event will capture the imagination of millions of sporting fans when the Special Olympics will take place in Los Angeles, U.S.A.

The games, which originated in the 1960s, are for athletes with disabilities such as Autism, Down Syndrome, Aspergers, varying forms of blindness and many other forms of learning difficulties. From its humble beginnings the Special Olympics now have competitors from over 150 countries.

After being approached by Golf Disability Wales last year, which involved coaching sessions for pupils from special needs schools from Penarth, P.G.A professional, John

Hastings, has now been offered the opportunity to get involved with the Special Olympic coaching scheme with weekly sessions to start next month over a ten week period.

The St Andrews Major professional will be responsible for a select group of players whose aim will be to gain a greater knowledge of the game as well as giving each individual a greater sense of self worth, confidence and achievement.

With Golf Development Wales offering financial support for this new venture the immediate future looks promising although fund raising events will hopefully raise additional money to enable competitors to benefit to a greater extent.

Chairman of Special Olympics Wales, Jeff Vickerey, hopes that from the coaching sessions one or two players will emerge who could go all the way to Los Angeles in 2015 to represent the Great Britain side.

Sillett stars in the ring

WHILE Wales were giving the English a lesson in rugby, the Welsh ABA Boxing Team travelled to England to take on a strong English squad.

In the opening ceremony, it was like David and Goliath, with a very hostile home crowd and an English team that seemed to tower over the Welsh boxers.

Sillett entered the ring and faced up to the English representative C. Benson, who stood a good six inches taller than Sillett and in a huge effort, under the guid-

ance of Pat Mahoney, Sillett attacked Benson from the bell.

A toe to toe battle continued for three rounds, with Benson receiving two public warnings. He had no answer to Sillett's continuous attack and was getting more frustrated by the minute.

With the whole crowd on their feet, Sillett kept his cool and was announced the winner by majority decision.

The final result was Wales 6, England 4.

Sillett will now represent Wales at the Heydar Aliyev Cup in Azerbaijan.

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AFTER THE GLOOM, WALES ON THE COME-BACK TRAIL! *Now players set to roar for the Lions*

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John



ABOVE: Alex Cuthbert's try takes the game beyond England's reach... and RIGHT, to the victors the spoils, as the Welsh team celebrate their fourth championship in nine years at a euphoric Millennium Stadium.

ON the eve of Saturday's Six Nations championship showdown between Wales and England, the British & Irish Lions' coach, Warren Gatland, turned up the heat on an already feverishly-expectant Millennium Stadium in Cardiff – by revealing that a third of places on the summer tour to Australia were still up for grabs.

"It is not a 'trial' game and yet it IS a trial – that's how it has worked out. For some players, there are key match-ups that could weigh up the decision... It's just down to one game..." the former All Black said with deliberate emphasis.

"There shouldn't be any lack of motivation... I know if I was playing, I would be thinking I have a chance to get myself on the plane, and I'm not leaving anything in the tank."

Obviously, his sudden intervention was no more than a simple statement of fact, impartially addressed to players on both sides – but that is surely to ignore both the overall context, and the Kiwi's well known penchant for applying human psychology to motivate his usual charges – in his daytime job as a canny national team coach who knows his Welsh players' particular psyche well.

Pictures courtesy of Huw Evans Agency. (See also page 32).



A supremely confident England were going into this climactic clash as clear favourites to clinch their first Grand Slam for 10 years and, according to all the hype whipped up by the London-based media, they were virtually certain to supply the bulk of the Lions' party heading Down Under in June.

In contrast, Wales – in the absence of head coach Gatland, currently seconded to the Lions – were still in a slow recovery mode from eight morale-draining defeats and a dismal opening Six Nations loss to a nondescript Ireland side – which had prematurely ended all hope of retaining last year's Grand Slam title.

True, Wales had since ground out three dour wins over France, Italy and Scotland, but most pundits predicted they would be no match for an England side that had defeated world champions New Zealand in the autumn, and with four wins under their belt, now needed only to score just one point more in the game than Wales to claim the 2013 Six Nations Grand Slam.

Former Scotland and Lions coach Jim Telfer, who this column noted last week had controversially branded Welsh rugby players as "lazy", has been even more scathing about England, tetchily describing them as "arrogant, pretentious and condescending -- and not as good as they think they are... a couple of good wins and they think they are world beat-ers".

Whew! But be that as it may, not for the first time, the final Grand Slam hurdle proved beyond an England side, in the red hot cauldron of a deafeningly-hostile Millennium Stadium with the roof closed; and there would be eggs on many pundits' faces at the final whistle, after a ruthlessly resolute Wales finally shook off the shackles and emphatically answered the challenge not to "leave anything in the tank" – with a stunning 30-3 triumph over their shaken rivals in white.

Last week, this column concluded with the words... "Wales know that if they can produce anything like the form and style that took them to three Grand Slams and a Rugby World Cup semi-final, they can approach this Six Nations decider with total confidence... Particularly with a fervent, sell-out Millennium Stadium crowd willing them on. All in all, what an occasion is in prospect!"

And so it proved. In fact, the writing was on the wall almost from the outset, for it was

immediately clear that there would be no repeat of the sluggish, error-strewn opening half against Ireland that denied Wales a fourth Grand Slam in nine years, as they hurled themselves bodily into the fray to answer the coaches' clarion call... "Wales expects that each man this day will do his duty" (with apologies to Horatio Nelson!)

The first engagement at the scrum, saw the Welsh pack, superbly buttressed (as always) by the indomitable Adam Jones, quickly gain the upper hand over less experienced rivals – this would lay the basis for a record-breaking, back-to-back win – resulting in three quick-fire penalty kick slotted over by the ever-cool Leigh Halfpenny, inside the first quarter.

England managed to muster a penalty kick of their own, ironically at the scrum, landed by outside half Owen Farrell, after the ball bobbed in off an upright, but he then failed with a second attempted placekick.

Welsh counterpart, Dan Biggar, was also unsuccessful with a drop kick at goal, and a first half played at a breathless pace ended 9-3 in Wales' favour. After the change-over, if anything, the pace and ferocity of the physical exchanges increased as both defences were tested to the limit – but there was never any risk of this high-octane clash degenerating into the kind of drab, error-laden affair that had been a depressing feature of a lack-lustre tournament.

From the 50th minute, when Halfpenny punished yet another indiscretion to edge Wales nine points ahead (they had begun the game needing an eight-point margin to retain the championship) new self-belief visibly swept through a team that have been through the mill in recent times. They sensed an epic result was now there for the taking – and with it a belated golden chance for individuals to lay down a decisive marker over leading rivals for a coveted place on the Lions' tour.

Five minutes later, one of those hopefuls, right wing Alex Cuthbert, powered over for a try and, after Farrell missed with another penalty attempt, Biggar was successful with another drop goal attempt.

The superiority established by a galvanised Welsh front five had unleashed the outstanding back row of Toby Faletau, and the new 'dynamic duo' Justin Tipuric and Sam Warburton, who completely dominated the breakdown area.

Then it was that physically battered and bewildered English heads began to go down

and with the home team now in almost total control of proceedings, Cuthbert thundered imperiously over for a second try in the corner, after being deftly handed a sublime scoring pass by man-of-the-match Tipuric.

Biggar added the conversion and then completed the rout with a penalty, for a memorable triumph that has now levelled the 124 meetings between these two arch rivals (which began in 1881) at 56 wins each with 12 matches drawn.

More importantly, perhaps, is the fact that Warren Gatland can now give full weight to Welsh players' claims for Lions' selection, unfettered by accusations of 'bias' levelled at his predecessor and compatriot Graham Henry, as attention now turns to the tour.

That surely is a source of satisfaction to the Kiwi and his fully vindicated stand-in, Robert Howley, looking further ahead – to RWC 2015!

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